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Bacterial contaminants in water prompt joint MOU. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

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CHCC warns of resistant bacteria

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. warned yesterday against infections caused by bacteria that is resistant to many of the antibiotics used to treat ordinary infections.

A CHCC statement warns against what is called methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA—an infection caused by a type of staphylococcus bacteria that becomes resistant to many of the antibiotics used to treat ordinary infections caused by other strains of the same type of bacteria.

The statement noted that there are two types of MRSA

See CHCC on Page 4

DPS rescues distressed vessel

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A distressed vessel beyond the reefline west of the Aqua Resort Club was safely towed back to a Saipan marina last Monday and its occupants were reported safe.

According to CNMI Department of Public Safety report, the Boating Safety Division launched a search and rescue mission at approximately 1:13pm last Monday.

It was learned that the three occupants of the vessel reported the incident to dispatch after their vessel gave out on their way to a fishing spot up north.

On a police report, dispatch received a call about a distressed vessel outside the reefline west of San Roque at

See DPS on Page 4

US plans tests of long-banned types of missiles

By ROBERT BURNS
AP NATIONAL SECURITY WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)— The Pentagon plans to begin flight tests this year of two types of missiles that have been banned for more than 30 years by a treaty from which both the United States and Russia are expected to withdraw in August, defense officials said Wednesday.

By moving forward with these missile projects, the Pentagon is not excluding the possibility that the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty could still survive, although it likely will be terminated in August. At that point, Wash-

See US on Page 4

Hopwood Middle School students pose in front of the Hollywood Theaters in San Jose. The students were given free tickets by the Rotary Club of Saipan to see a movie that will form part of their class activities.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Movie treat for Hopwood students

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hopwood Middle School students were recently treated to a movie at the Hollywood Theater in San Jose—thanks to the Rotary Club of Saipan.

And, while the title of the movie they eventually watched was not immediately disclosed, Hopwood school principal Rizalina Liwag said it was related to a lesson the students were having.

The students got the movie treat thanks to hundreds of free movie tickets distributed by Rotary Club's Tatia-

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Hawaii would be the first state in the U.S. to ban most plastics in restaurants.
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More than 1,000 people are feared dead in Mozambique four days after a cyclone.
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Local

House paves way for bipartisan housekeeping

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

An old rule that was reportedly borrowed from the CNMI Senate that prevents the minority bloc from being part of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee has been struck from the House of Representatives' playbook, earning plaudits from minority lawmakers.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said this move establishes a truly bipartisan approach at the House early in the 21st Legislature and allows the leadership bloc of House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) and her minority colleagues to meet halfway.

Sablan, a Precinct 1 lawmaker, said that with Attao's leadership and the cooperation of the ad-hoc committee, some of the minority's proposed amendments were accepted for addition to the rules. "This is, to our knowledge, the first time that a truly bipartisan ethics committee is being established in the Legislature," she said.

The three-person ad hoc rules committee is composed of committee chair John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), and Vice Speaker Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan).

Aside from Rep. Tina Sablan, the other members of the minority bloc are Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Sheila J. Babauta (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Richard T. Lizama (R-Saipan), Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Rep. Tina Sablan said that, under Attao, membership in the Ways and Means Committee is being increased, allowing for additional representation from the minority.

"And an old and unfair rule borrowed from the Senate that would impose restrictions only on the minority is being struck out. So, thank you, [House] Speaker [Attao], floor leader [Rep. John Paul P. Sablan], and the rules committee. Your fairness and reasonableness are very much appreciated," she added.

Rep. Tina Sablan said the minority bloc also appreciated the floor amendment introduced by House Ways and Means Committee chair Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) to House Resolution 20-4.

Sablan

Blanco introduced an amendment to Rule XIII Section X on the House Rules where each House member must keep receipts and other records of all transactions and corresponding public purpose justifications to the authorized allowance.

"We also appreciate that the rules have been amended to explicitly require that all members who opt to draw an allowance must keep records of all transactions and their corresponding public purpose justifications. The paramount concern for the minority regarding these allowances was always to ensure transparency and accountability for these public funds," said Sablan.

"So, thank you, chair Blanco for championing that amendment, and all members here who supported it. Only [Rep. Joseph] Lee Pan [T. Guerrero] (R-Saipan) did not support it, but he said he's not drawing the allowance anyway so he should be okay."

The other amendments proposed by the minority, however, did not pass, one of which would have clarified the details in the members' quarterly financial reports while another would impose a penalty for members who fail to submit their reports in time.

Sablan said the allowances provided to members are public funds and all lawmakers must be transparent and accountable with their expenditures. "Our rules require that we submit reports for travel, and that we submit quarterly financial reports to the speaker. Our first report to the speaker is due in April."

"With the Blanco amendment, our rules will further require that any member who draws an allowance must maintain records of all transactions, and their corresponding public purpose justifications. We are also, of course, bound by the ethics code in everything we do, and our records are public records under the Open Government Act and under our rules."

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Twins in hit-and-run also plead guilty to burglarizing tourist van

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The twin brothers who pleaded guilty to a hit-and-run over a week ago have also pleaded guilty to another criminal case involving burglary of a tourist van.

Anthony Laatman Muña and Vincent Laatman Muña, 23, pleaded guilty last Thursday to burglarizing a tourist van at the Grotto in Marpi.

According to the plea agreement Anthony and Vicente Muña will get a suspended five-year imprisonment sentence each and will both be placed on probation for five years.

The sentence will run concurrent with the sentence imposed in a separate case where both brothers received three years for attempted robbery and hit-and-run.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan presided. Vincent Muña was represented by court-appointed counsel Mark Scoggins, while Anthony Muña was represented by assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues. The government was represented by assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery.

Both defendants will be jointly liable for payment of all restitution to the tour operator in an amount to be determined later.

According to court documents, Vicente Muña burglarized a van belonging to Saipan Adventures on April 25, 2018.

Anthony Muña drove Vicente Muña to the Grotto, where Vicente Muña broke into the van by throwing a rock through the van's window and then took cell phones and personal items belonging to the tourists and the tour operator.

When Vicente Muña got off the van, Anthony Muña drove him from the scene.

After their arrest, the Muña brothers confessed their involvement in the burglary, and assisted police by giving information that led to other suspects who committed purse snatching-type robberies in Garapan.

On June 8, 2018, the Muña brothers also attempted to snatch the purse of a tourist but were unsuccessful and ended up hitting her with their car instead.

According to police, the Muña brothers were driving a rented vehicle down Beach Road on June 8, 2018, when they tried to snatch the purses of two female tourists who were walking along the shoulder of the road.

Anthony Muña was the driver and Vicente Muña was in the car's front passenger seat.

Upon seeing two female pedestrians—Yao Yang and Yanbo Wu—the Muña brothers agreed that Anthony Muña would drive close to the pedestrians and Vicente Muña would grab the purses from the tourists.

Anthony Muña did a U-turn and then drove toward the tourists. Vicente Muña reached from the car and grabbed one of the tourist's purses but was unsuccessful.

Anthony Muña hit the tourist with the car but did not stop.

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Motion to junk workers' 1st suit denied as moot

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has denied as moot a motion to dismiss the original lawsuit filed by seven Chinese construction workers against a contractor of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC over the injuries they allegedly suffered during accidents at IPI's casino-resort project in Garapan.

Manglona dismissed yesterday Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC's motion to dismiss the original lawsuit because the workers have already filed an amended complaint.

Manglona vacated the motion hearing set for April 4, 2019.

In the original complaint filed last December, the seven workers, through counsel Bruce Berline, sued Gold Mantis for negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Gold Mantis moved to dismiss the lawsuit for lack of jurisdiction.

However, last Feb. 11, the plaintiffs and Gold Mantis submitted an agreement that allows the workers to amend their complaint.

The seven workers filed the amended complaint last Friday.

In dismissing the motion to dismiss as moot, citing precedent by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Manglona said: "It is well established in our circuit that an amended complaint supersedes the original, the latter being treated thereafter as non-existent."

In the amended lawsuit, the plaintiffs are still suing Gold Mantis, but added IPI and another contractor, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., as defendants.

In the amended lawsuit, the seven workers are suing the defendants for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The workers alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino-resort worksite.

The plaintiffs asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay them damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

IPI previously denied the allegations.

The seven plaintiffs are Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yang.

Torres, Palacios, Kilili condemn NZ attack

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) added their voices yesterday to those who condemned the terror attacks on two New Zealand mosques that killed 50 people.

"It's an absolute tragedy, and we condemn this senseless act of violence that killed innocent people," stated a joint statement from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "The Pacific grieves with the people of New Zealand, and our thoughts and prayers are with them."

Separately, Sablan described in an email to *Saipan Tribune* the attacks as "cruel."

"The attacks in New Zealand are a tragic reminder that Islamophobia and such acts of pure hatred have no place in a civilized world," Sablan said. "The Christchurch terrorist attack by a white supremacist against Muslims in their house of worship is cruel."

The attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand also caused 50 injuries.

"We mourn the loss of [50] lives cut short in the horrific act of violence in Christchurch, a beautiful community I have visited. We pray for the victims and stand with the survivors and the families impacted by this violence. We will do all we can to help the people of New Zealand," added Sablan.

Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez last Monday expressed grief over the tragedy, while American Samoa delegate Amata C. Radewagen (R-AS) and Northern Marianas International School manager John Joyner expressed the same sentiments.

International media outlets reported that the massacres occurred on two separate times of the day last Friday. The first was the deadliest while the second killed at least seven people with another dying in the hospital.

Coral Reef and Natural Resources initiative grants now open

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Grant applications for the Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative are now open for applications from the U.S. Insular Areas.

The goal of the CRNR Initiative is to improve the health of coral reef ecosystems and other natural resources in the U.S. insular areas for their long-term economic and social benefit.

Priority will be given to projects that help the insular areas address threats to coral reef ecosystems and eradicate aquatic and terrestrial plant, insect, and animal invasive species.

Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, said: "Acting Secretary [David] Bernhardt and I are committed to protecting the natural resources of the insular areas in line with the mission of the Department. We have prioritized the eradication of invasive species, fulfilling requirements under S.47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, signed by President Donald J. Trump. This bipartisan public lands bill requires federal agencies to protect water, oceans, coasts, and wildlife from invasive species and to achieve an annual net reduction in invasive species, by reducing either their populations or their areas of infestation."

Applications for 2019 funding are encouraged and will be considered from insular government entities, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations whose grant proposals directly benefit the four U.S. territories or three freely associated states.

The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2019. ***(PR)***

US

From Page 1

ington and Moscow would no longer face legal constraints on deploying land-based cruise or ballistic missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,410 miles). The INF treaty has been in effect since 1987.

The INF treaty was an arms control landmark in the final years of the Cold War, but it began unraveling several years ago when Washington accused Russia of developing, testing and, more recently, deploying a cruise missile that U.S. officials say violates the treaty. Russia denies the violation and contends the U.S. accusation is a ploy to destroy the treaty.

Intermediate-range weapons are regarded as particularly destabilizing because of the short time they take to reach a target.

When he announced on Feb. 1 that the U.S. would pull the plug on the INF treaty, President Donald Trump said his administration would "move forward" with developing a military response to Russia's alleged violations. He was not specific, but defense officials on Wednesday spelled out a plan for developing two non-INF compliant, non-nuclear missiles.

The officials, who spoke to a small group of reporters under Pentagon ground rules that did not permit use of their names or titles, said one project is a low-flying cruise missile with a potential range of about 1,000 kilometers; the other would be a ballistic missile with a range of roughly 3,000 to 4,000 kilometers. Neither would be nuclear armed, the officials said.

The U.S. cruise missile is likely to be flight-tested in August, one official said, adding that it might be ready for deployment within 18 months. The longer-range ballistic missile is expected to be tested in November, with deployment not likely for five years or more, the official said. If Russia and the U.S. were to reach a deal to rescue the INF treaty before August, these projects would not go forward.

The cruise missile recalls a nuclear-armed U.S. weapon that was deployed in Britain and several other European NATO countries in the 1980s, along with Pershing 2 ground-based ballistic missiles, in response to a buildup of Soviet SS-20 missiles targeting Western Europe. With the signing of the INF treaty, those missiles were withdrawn and destroyed.

The defense officials said U.S. allies in Europe and Asia have not yet been consulted about deploying either new missile on their territory. NATO is currently studying the implications of the demise of the INF treaty and possible military responses.

One defense official said it was possible that the intermediate-range ballistic missile could be deployed on Guam, a U.S. territory, which would be close enough to Asia to pose a potential threat to China and Russia.

Arms control advocates and Democrats in Congress have questioned the wisdom of leaving the INF treaty, while accepting U.S. allegations that Russia is violating it by deploying a cruise missile that can target American allies in Europe.

"The Russians have been violating the INF treaty for years but, instead of focusing world opinion against the Russians, the Trump administration decided to withdraw from the treaty," Rep. Adam Smith, the Democratic chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said recently. "Instead of punishing the Russians, the administration has announced it would sink to the level of the Russians."

DPS

From Page 1

about 12:56pm on Monday.

DPS central office immediately dispatched CNMI DPS Boating Safety's rescue boat, *Impact,* from the Smiling Cove Marina.

At 1:36pm *Impact* met with the distressed vessel near the same location where the 911 call was made. The distressed vessel was safely towed into the Smiling Cove Marina by 2:45pm.

It was learned that the three occupants of the distressed vessel launched their red, outboard-powered, 20-footer vessel at about 9am and planned to head north for a fishing trip when the boat's motor made an unusual sound and slowly died out. The captain and crew tried to start up the motor to no avail and called 911 for assistance.

The Boating Safety Division would like to remind boaters to be aware of water conditions before planning fishing trips and encourage boaters to tell their family members about their plans before going in the water.

If a distressed vessel or swimmer is spotted out in the lagoon, notify the CNMI DPS Boating Safety immediately by calling 911.

CHCC

From Page 1

infections: healthcare-associated MRSA and community-associated MRSA.

Healthcare-associated MRSA occurs in people who have been in hospitals or other healthcare settings, including dialysis centers. "[Healthcare-associated MRSA] usually occur after surgeries or other medical procedures," the statement said.

The community-associated MRSA is a type of MRSA infection that occurs in the wider community—among healthy people. This type of MRSA infection often begins as a painful skin boil and is spread by skin-to-skin contact.

"People who are at-risk include those who live with or come into close contact with those who have MRSA infections, athletes, childcare workers, and people who live in crowded conditions," the statement said.

Community-associated MRSA is easily spread through cuts, open sores, and skin-to-skin contact; living in crowded or unsanitary conditions; sexual intercourse; and using intravenous drugs.

"MRSA infections can resist many common antibiotics, so they are more difficult to treat. This can allow the infection to spread and sometimes become life-threatening," the statement noted, adding that the infection may spread to an individual's blood, lungs, heart, bones, and joints.

In order to prevent community-associated MRSA, CHCC recommends washing hands briskly for at least 15 seconds or carrying a bottle of hand sanitizer with at least 62 percent alcohol if there is no access to soap and water; keeping cuts and wounds clean and covered with sterile, dry bandages until healed; keeping personal items personal such as towels, sheets, razors, clothing, and athletic equipment; showering immediately after athletics using soap and water; sanitizing linens; and preventing intravenous illicit drugs.

MOVIE

From Page 1

na Babauta.

According to Liwag, the Rotary's motivation is in tune with their commitment to humanitarian work.

"Their goal was to [provide] the students with incentives that would motivate them to increase morale and promote literacy," she said.

"The tickets were given to the students last week and they are scheduled to watch the movie picked out by the class. The movie chosen has to be related to their lessons and will be a part of their class activities," she added.

Liwag said the movie tickets were allotted to 6th to 8th graders. "This will definitely help promote literacy and encourage school spirit. Our school is working closely with the Rotary Club of Saipan with our school initiatives to promote literacy, culture, and improve attendance,"

"We believe that an educational movie where students can learn from is a good incentive that will motivate and push them to strive harder," she added.

Liwag said Hopwood appreciates the Rotary Club of Saipan for their effort in inspiring the children to be better.

"We thank the Rotary for being our partner in promoting the school's initiatives and their generosity in providing students an activity that they will enjoy doing and learning at the same time," she said.

"We would also like to thank for them accommodating our 900 students," she added.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMBAC reps at SHRM meeting today

Representatives of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. will be the speakers at the membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter today, March 20, 2019, at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club. The NMBAC will provide information on efforts to update the expired CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey and how this will affect the submissions of fiscal year 2020 CW petitions. The presentation includes the PIC Magellan Restaurant lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. ***(PR)***

Military trainings at FDM, former golf course

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines, and U.S. Air Force is conducting trainings at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until March 18-23, from 8am to 10pm

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 is also conducting combat search-and-rescue training until March 21, from 5pm to 11pm, at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. It is also recommended the public, commercial pilots, fishermen and marine tour operators stay clear from these areas during the dates and times indicated.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course. ***(PR)***

Free probate workshops on Rota

Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will present probate workshops No. 2 and No. 3 on Rota on Thursday, March 21, 2019 starting at 1:30pm at the Sinapalo Youth Center. The sessions are free and open to the public. ***(PR)***

Weightlifting competition on Saipan

CNMI Weightlifting will hold a weightlifting competition on Saipan on May 18, 2019, at a time and place to be announced later. ***(PR)***

Class of 1981 reunion meeting

Attention to all Marianas High School Class of 1981 and off-island graduate(s) in Guam and the U.S. mainland that there will be a 1981 class reunion meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019, starting at 6pm at the Tech-NIC Computer above Sherwin Paint across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Wednesday, March 20, 2019 – 11am to 6pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral feeder outage on the Feeder 7 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Village location: As Matuis
  - ❑ Power service area(s) affected: RTE 320 and Binadu Drive
  - ❑ Water well(s) affected: As Matuis Well Field
  - ❑ Water service area(s) affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag and Lower Base will be affected during the duration of the power outage
  - ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace eight (8) wooden poles with concrete poles
- **Thursday, March 21, 2019 – 8:30am to 1:30pm**
  - ❑ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral feeder outage on the Feeder 7 distribution circuit
  - ❑ Village location: As Matuis
  - ❑ Power service area(s) affected: RTE 320
  - ❑ Water well(s) affected: As Matuis Well Field
  - ❑ Water service area(s) affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag and Lower Base may be affected depending on tank level
  - ❑ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❑ Work to be performed: Replace five (5) wooden poles with concrete poles ***(PR)***

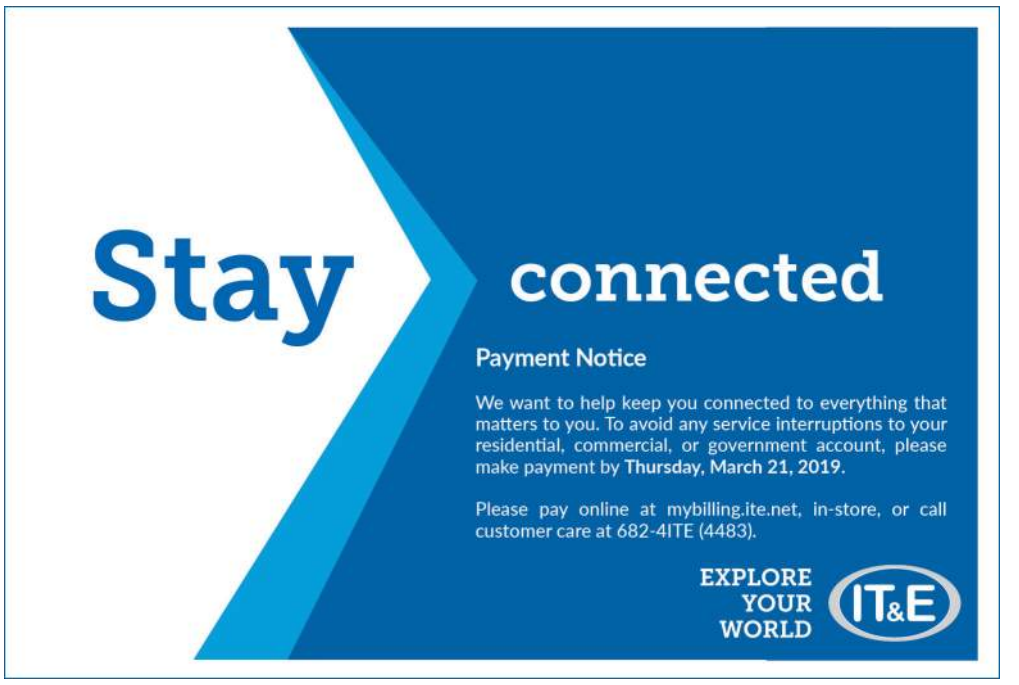
Register for NMC's spring semester

Northern Marianas College is reminding all individuals interested in furthering their education that they still have until March 23, 2019, to register for the upcoming spring semester.

- Registration for ongoing and new students via Proa Portal: Ongoing until March 23, 2019
- First day of classes: April 1, 2019

NMC will be also having a free information session on March 21, 2019, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the college's Olympio T. Borja Library. It is open to all prospective students and interested community members. Those who would like to apply for admission or register for classes can attend the info session.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming spring 2019 semester or to apply for admission, contact NMC's Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***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KINDNESS?
Like gratitude, kindness is like a muscle that in order to make a habit of it, you must learn to practice. Practicing kindness is linked to decreasing social anxieties, improving relationship building, and making you feel more positive. Here are a few simple things you and your child can do to practice kindness.
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Bacterial contaminants in water prompt joint MOU

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since December 2018, teams from the Bureau of Environmental Health and Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality have sampled water sources from 176 food service establishments in the CNMI and roughly 50 percent of those sampled revealed the presence of either total coliform or E. coli bacteria in their water.

Although the presence of total coliform in water is not harmful to humans, the sampling results show that the water supply on Saipan is vulnerable to bacterial and other contamination, said the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in a statement.

E. coli, on the other hand, is harmful to humans and may result in illnesses that are possibly dangerous, depending on the strain.

These results have prompted the BEH to ink a memorandum of understanding with BECQ last Feb. 22 to improve water quality monitoring at food service establishments in the CNMI.

BEH and BECQ have agreed to combine their efforts to ensure that food establishments in the CNMI practice safe health and hygiene procedures.

According to a CHCC statement, the MOU was in response to findings regarding E. coli and total coliform bacteria during monitoring efforts after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in late October 2018.

"These vulnerabilities pose a potential threat to the public health of the people of the CNMI via waterborne contamination that could potentially transmit communicable diseases and impact the sanitation of food handling and preparation," CHCC's statement said.

"This MOU provides guidelines for the coordination of activities between the two agencies, with the overall goal of identifying and minimizing microbial contamination to prevent food and waterborne diseases and to protect overall public health," the CHCC statement added.

The MOU signing was dedicated to former BECQ Safe Drinking Water Program manager Jose Kaipat and was witnessed by CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, BECQ administrator Eli Cabrera, and representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Pacific SBDC accreditation renewed until 2023

From left, Pamela Peralta, associate network director, Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network; Jane Ray, business adviser, Guam Small Business Development Center; Cheery Fe Yeban, network program associate, PISBDCN; Laurine Q. Sablan, administrative assistant, Guam SBDC; and Denise M. Mendiola, acting network director of PISBDCN and director of Guam SBDC.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network at the University of Guam received a renewal of its accreditation until December 2023.

The network oversees six individual SBDC offices throughout Micronesia, and every five years, it undergoes a review that determines if it is meeting the standards and requirements set by the U.S. Small Business Association and America's Small Business Development Centers.

"We must be accredited or else we risk losing our membership with ASBDC and partnership with SBA," said Denise M. Mendiola, who serves as the PISBDCN acting network director and the Guam SBDC director. "Accreditation ensures that we are operating efficiently and effectively within the standards they set."

In October 2018, an accreditation team consisting of other SBDCs contracted by the SBA conducted a site visit and interviewed the PISBDCN staff and advisory board members as well as the center's host, sponsors, and clients to assess the program.

The accreditation process also reviews how PISBDCN can improve its services.

"The SBA has given us new goals to achieve this year. Right now we're focusing on food security and the Micronesia Regional Trade Program—a five-year project to encourage regional trade and international export," Mendiola said.

The PISBDCN exists to support the growth and economic development of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands in the Western Pacific region by providing training and free business counseling to existing and prospective small businesses. Under the umbrella of the Network lead center are service centers in Guam, Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau. PISBDCN is part of the ASBDC network with 1,000 SBDCs within 63 networks across the United States and its territories. ***(PR)***

Emergency motion to dismiss Hillbroom's suit denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has denied a Vietnam-based lawyer's emergency motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed against him by Junior Larry Hillbroom.

In an order last Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that Barry J. Israel's emergency motion fails to comply with the court's local rule, that it contains no statement certifying Israel's efforts to resolve the dispute without court action.

The judge noted that the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides for the voluntary dismissal of an action by the plaintiff, but that is not before the court.

"Therefore, the motion is denied without prejudice," she said.

Denial without prejudice means Israel may re-file the motion.

Manglona reminded Israel's counsel that he must contact the court's clerk's office by telephone and email when requesting immediate court action to avoid calendaring conflicts.

Israel, through lawyer Theodore W. Frank, filed the emergency motion for dismissal of Hillbroom's lawsuit last Wednesday and noticed it for a hearing two days later.

In Israel's motion, Frank claimed that Hillbroom wants to drop his lawsuit against Israel and David J. Lujan, another lawyer, but his counsel has not yet complied with his instruction.

Hillbroom is suing Israel and Lujan, his former lawyers, for alleged legal malpractice.

Frank said that because Israel's deposition is set to begin in Guam today, March 20, and Hillbroom's deposition of Lujan is set to begin on March 26, the court's intervention and guidance is necessary to insure that the parties' time and money are not expended needlessly on a case that is "dead in the water."

Alternatively, if the court is unwilling to dismiss the case, Israel wants the court to hold an immediate hearing with Hillbroom, in person or by telephone, to determine whether he has indeed instructed his counsel to drop the lawsuit.

Citing recorded conversations between Hillbroom and Lujan, Frank disclosed that, as early as Feb. 2, 2019, Hillbroom had instructed his lawyer to dismiss this case but his lawyers have not yet complied.

If this is so, Frank said, it would be a great injustice for Israel to travel from Vietnam to Guam and expend money to attend his deposition, only to have the case dismissed.

Citing Lujan's declaration, Frank said it was Hillbroom who called Lujan on the phone last Jan. 31, requesting to discuss the resolution of this case. At the time, Frank said, Lujan was unable to discuss the matter fully so it was agreed that they would talk again.

Frank said that Lujan called Hillbroom back last Feb. 2, where Hillbroom stated he wants to dismiss the lawsuit. The lawyer said Hillbroom stated, among other things, that he is tired of going to court.

In his lawsuit, Hillbroom alleged that Israel and Lujan conspired with a former trustee to inflate the attorneys' contingency fee when the fortune of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Lee Hillblom was still undergoing probate proceedings in Superior Court.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillbroom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on May 21, 1995.

New jury trial for Romolor set

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government has decided to push forward with the rape case against Manolo Romolor and the defense has agreed to schedule a new jury trial.

During a status conference last Monday, both parties in the case against Romolor agreed on a new jury trial.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja set the new trial on May 13, 2019, starting, again with the selection of jurors.

Romolor's lawyer, Bruce Berline, said that he would like to file multiple motions before the trial so Naraja scheduled a motion hearing to hear all motions on April 30.

This comes after the Naraja cited "prosecutorial misconduct" in declaring a mistrial in Romolor's case back on Feb. 15, 2019.

"After reviewing the parties and listening to the arguments, and the audio of the trial, I am declaring a mistrial due to prosecutorial misconduct. The written order will follow explaining the court's reasoning in detail. Briefly, the court would like to note that there were nearly 80 objections against the Commonwealth, a curative instruction to mischaracterization of the Commonwealth, and numerous instances of testifying and inappropriate use of the complaining witness' first name. These excessively large amount of errors infected the trial. …Continued instruction could only shield the jury so much," Naraja said.

The court cited 14 circumstance of mischaracterization of a witness testimony, multiple hearsay issues, multiple instances of lack of foundation, 22 circumstances where the government was testifying during direct examination, and 10 circumstances where the government referred to the victim by her first name.

"…most of these issues would likely not be a cause of a mistrial. However, these issues are not looked at individually…they are examined collectively. Therefore, in a situation such as this, a mistrial was the only course of action.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eliceo D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Isa Villa Multifamily Housing Development Complex

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed expansion of 86 additional housing units of the Isa Villas Multi-Family Development project. The Isa Villas project is a multifamily development complex consisting a total of six concrete buildings with three and four-bedroom units, 150 regular parking spaces plus 6 ADA-compliant parking spaces, communal/recreational space, a community center, and driveways. The project site is located on Capitol Hill, Saipan, on a privately leased property identified as Lot Number 150 E 30.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Thursday, April 04, 2019, at 5PM. Venue will be announced at a later date.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Isa Villas Multi-Family Development project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

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Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF JASPER YAN, Minor Child, By: TAO YAN and AIPING CHEN. Petitioners.) FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0009) ORDER SETTING HEARING AND PRESCRIBING NOTICE REGARDING ADOPTION OF MINOR CHILD

Petitioners, Tao Yan and Aiping Chen, have petitioned the Court for a decree granting them the right to adopt Jasper Yan, a male born at the Commonwealth Health Center on December 21, 2018 (the minor child), and terminating the parental rights of Hong Mei Zhao, the biological mother of the minor child.

A hearing of the Petitioner's Petition for Adoption and Change of Name is hereby set for April 1, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., before Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, in Marianas Business Plaza. Any interested party may appear at that hearing. A hearing on Petitioner's request for authority to seek and obtain a United States Passport for Jasper Yan will be set, likely on an expedited basis, once Petitioner's file their motion requesting such hearing.

Petitioners shall publish notice on the April 1, 2019 hearing the Petition for Adoption and Change of Name once at least one week before hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Petitioners shall also post notice on the Saipan Courthouse public notice board for a period of ten consecutive (10) calendar days before the set hearing date.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 15th day of January, 2018.

/s/TERESA KIM-TENORIO, Associate Judge

MINA brings conservation program to Managaha

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance held the second workshop for its annual "Schools for Environmental Conservation" program by hosting the participants on Managaha Island on March 9, 2019.

SFEC is funded through the Department of the Interior and is designed to engage students in educational and field activities while focusing on environmental issues.

Participating in this year's program are students from Mount Carmel School, Dandan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, and Tanapag Middle School.

This year's SFEC theme is "Learning About and Actively Addressing Marine Debris in the CNMI."

The objective is to raise awareness of the flood of debris that washes up on the shores of the CNMI from other countries and gets left behind by beachgoers, visitors, and residents, and the harm it does to marine life.

SFEC students and their teachers spent the day on Managaha to gain more insight on the dangers and effects of marine debris, and how measures are being taken in the CNMI for the conservation of natural resources.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Group photo of Schools for Environmental Conservation students, teacher, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance Tasi Watch Rangers, presenters, and volunteers have their picture taken by the Chief Aghurubw statue on Managaha.

The workshop featured the topics of marine protected areas by Kevin Camacho (Division of Fish and Wildlife), enforcement by Marvin Pangelinan and Esteven Tenorio (DFW), fisheries by Gina Tomokane (DFW), sea turtle program by Carey Demapan (Department of Lands and Natural Resources), historic and cultural aspects by Lucas Simonds (Historic Preservation Offive), and human impact surveys by Kelsey McClellan (Division of Coastal and Reef Management).

Simonds showed the students wreckage from World War II that has remained on the beach by the dock at Managaha. "It's only 75 years or so that it's been here, but it's already starting to get covered in coral and there are fish all over that. At this point, it has grown into a place of shelter for marine life and is part of our history, but is still categorized as marine debris."

McClellan spoke of how human activities, as well as marine debris, have measurable impacts on our natural resources. She instructed the students on how to conduct human impact surveys on land and in the water, as they observe popular beach activities such as snorkeling, swimming, wading and picnicking. They also observed negative behaviors such as fish-feeding, removing live animals, breaking off coral, and littering. By measuring the intensity and frequency of these behaviors, DCRM can identify the impacts visitors have on prime tourist sites.

McClellan said, "By understanding these behaviors, we can work with tour operators and tourists alike to educate visitors about responsible and sustainable tourism."

MINA would like to express their gratitude for the collaboration of the various agencies who helped to make this event successful. Sincere appreciation also goes out to the teachers of the participating schools, volunteers, and MyCapitures Photography.

To learn more about MINA's Schools for Environmental Conservation program, visit MINA's Facebook page, email MINA at minaoutreach@gmail.com or call us at 233-7333 (REEF). ***(MINA)***

ARMATECH

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-004

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning for the Water System Mitigation Project for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-004, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets for the Water System Mitigation Project"*** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 16, 2019**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-014

SADOG TASI PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-014, Sadog Tasi Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 8, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Risky rip currents seen until Friday

Authorities are warning that there is a high risk of rip currents through Friday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a large trade-wind swell will be maintaining the high risk of rip currents in the next few days

Fresh to strong trade winds continue east of the Marianas. This will maintain east swells of 4 to 7 feet, creating a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Surf of 7 to 9 feet will maintain a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs the next several days. Surf will decrease on Friday.

The public is being advised that, if you become caught in a rip current, remain calm, swim parallel to shore, then back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. ***(PR)***

Disaster recovery grants available

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Congress has appropriated $1.7 billion to help communities like the CNMI that were hit by natural disasters last year and that is funding that the CNMI could tap into.

In line with this, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) recently wrote Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to encourage his administration to start gathering and preparing the requirements needed to avail the Community Development Block Grants-Disaster Recovery funds.

The Commonwealth experienced Super Typhoon Yutu last October.

The funds appropriated by Congress were for CDBG-DR but, unlike the regular CDBG that other states and territories receive annually, the DR funds need advanced planning before submission.

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, devastated by hurricanes Maria and Irma, had just began to take advantage of the CDBG-DR funds after qualifying under Public Law 115-223, which covered all disasters that occurred in 2017.

Sablan said: "The [CNMI] will have to submit a plan to use the funds for long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure and housing, and for economic revitalization."

"Websites will have to be built so the public can have full view of procurements and contracting. And the Commonwealth will have to have robust financial controls so that CDBG-DR funds are only used for needs not met by [Federal Emergency Management Agency] funding. This can all take as long as six months."

He added that another $1.2 billion in federal money—appropriated through H.R. 268 that would make supplemental appropriations for the current fiscal year that ends on Sept. 30—was passed by the Democratic Party-dominated House and will be discussed by the GOP-filled Senate later this month.

Permanent housing

Sablan is also reminding families that qualified for FEMA's Permanent Housing Construction program that the deadline to opt-in is on Friday, March 22. Over 900 families from Saipan and Tinian are eligible to avail of the program, which would either build you a new typhoon-resilient home or repair damaged homes.

"The Marianas qualifies because of the scale of destruction from Typhoon Mangkhut (Rota) and Yutu, and because of limited access to materials and labor. Eligible survivors who decide to take advantage of the program will end up with a typhoon-resilient home, built to standard, at no cost to themselves," said Sablan.

"FEMA will take care of labor, materials, permitting, and construction. I encourage all eligible survivors to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity for a safer [and] stronger home, and for greater peace of mind for the future.

For more information, eligible families can call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) to choose to avail of the said program that was made available to the CNMI for the first time.

ACHIEVE3000 AWARDEE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School 3rd grade student Do Geon Kim, center, is recognized by readers around the world for Achieve3000's Global Literacy Achievement Award. Kim's 3rd grade teacher, Zyron Castillo, left, and acting MCS principal Barbara Merfalen presented the award to Kim during a school assembly.

UOG students leave for Bali school

Nine students from the University of Guam departed last March 19 for an immersive 12-day learning experience in Bali.

The students are senior social work, sociology, philosophy, and education majors, and the program—the Bali Field School—is a component of their semester-long Community Development course in the Sociology Program.

Over the course of the trip, the students will live in a village with Balinese families, engage in their daily work and cultural practices, and explore core concepts of community development firsthand from practitioners, cultural artisans, and community organizers as well as from Balinese and Australian scholars who will be joining them.

"The question that continues to guide us is, 'How do indigenous peoples and societies preserve their cultures and hold on to the cultural values that have sustained them for so long and yet move on in the modern world?'" said Sociology professor Kirk Johnson, who co-teaches the course along with Alison Hadley. "It allows the students to think more deeply about those things here in Guam and helps them explore their own values and current challenges facing our island community."

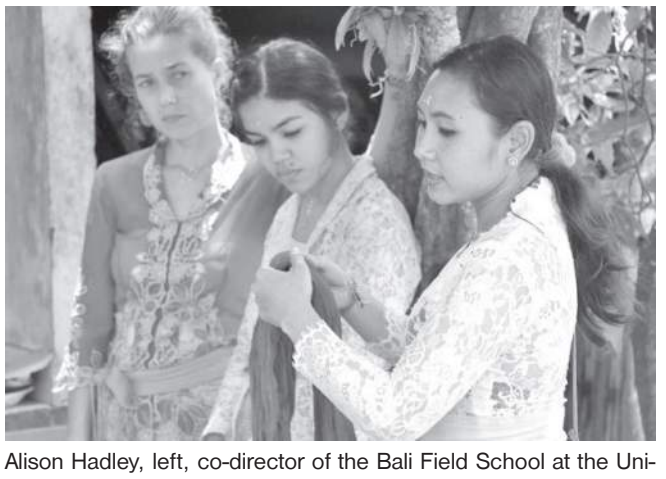
Upon returning, the students will self-publish a book that captures their research and draws on their reflections and insights documented in their personal journals. Past cohorts have written publications, presented at international conferences, produced films and documentaries, and held workshops in local community centers and public schools on Guam and Saipan.

Reflecting on the most important lesson she took away from the experience, Bali Field School alumna Charissa Manibusan said, "Community development should always be a grassroots process. It's most effective when the people in that community have a say and that process is based on their core beliefs and their values."

This year the field school is celebrating its 20th anniversary. It was launched in 1999 by now professor emerita of Anthropology Rebecca A. Stephenson and now emeritus director of the Micronesian Area Research Center Hiro Kurashina.

"It's been very heartfelt over the years, watching them grow, develop, learn, and become leaders in so many ways in their community here in Guam," Stephenson said.

Over the past two decades, more than 150 students have participated in the Bali Field School, including Vice Speaker Telena Cruz Nelson, Sen. Kelly Taitano, and others who now serve in many areas of social, political, and economic life—from law and policy making to education and social welfare and from community organizing and philanthropy to the fields of health and social justice. ***(UOG)***



Alison Hadley, left, co-director of the Bali Field School at the University of Guam, and UOG student Isalyn Concepcion, center, learn about the natural dyeing of textiles from a woman named Tutut during the 2017 Bali Field School in Nusa Penida, a small island off the coast of Bali. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The 2019 cohort of the University of Guam's Bali Field School left for Bali on March 19. Back row, from left, Annie-Fay Camacho; Richille Uncangco; Amber Uncangco; Artemia Perez; Alyssa Gordan; and Marian Huavas. Front row, from left, Heather Garrido; Jean Reda; Cassandra-Jay Flores; Kirk Johnson, professor of sociology at the University of Guam and co-director of the Bali Field School; and Alison Hadley, co-director of the Bali Field School. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

NMC Info Session tomorrow

Individuals who are interested in enrolling in Northern Marianas College's spring 2019 semester can still apply for federal financial aid. This, along with other topics, will be discussed in the free NMC Info Session scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, March 21, 2019.

The information session will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the college's Olympio T. Borja Library at NMC's As Terlaje campus.

In addition to the admission process, the information session will cover financial aid options that are available for the spring 2019 semester. This will include the Federal Financial Aid program, which uses the FAFSA.

The Federal Financial Aid program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Through the program's various types of grants, loans, and scholarships, the Federal Financial Aid program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

Attendees of the information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for the college's upcoming spring 2019 semester—a savings of about $75.

The first day of classes will be on April 1, 2019, but interested applicants are encouraged to apply early to register for courses and for financial aid.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social work), associate of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about registering for classes for the spring 2019 semester or to apply for admission, contact the college's Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

45 ways to say 'thank you', 45 lucky winners

To mark its 45th anniversary this year, Pacifica Insurance has launched a promo called Car Service Giveaway, during which it will be giving away car service maintenance gift certificates to 45 lucky winners.

The promo is intended as way of saying thank you for choosing to trust and partner with Pacifica Insurance for the past 45 years.

"I would like to express immense gratitude to everyone who has supported us throughout our 45 years of existence. We look forward to furthering our partnership and commitment to our community for years to come," said company president Shirley Sablan

Mami Ikeda is the first winner of Pacifica Insurance's 45th Anniversary Car Service Giveaway.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eligible winners are individuals and businesses who hold policies with Pacifica Insurance. Winners will be raffled weekly throughout the year.

The giveaway's first winner is Mami Ikeda, president of M&M's Corp. Included in her prize are an oil change, adjustment of tire pressure, 28 multi-point inspections, and other services on a personal vehicle of her choice.

The car service giveaway is limited to services under the Gold Service package program through Joeten Motor Co.

Log on to pacificains.com/45years for more details about the giveaway. ***(PR)***

CUC public hearing on GAC filter system for handling PFOA/PFOS contaminant removal

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 6pm, at the CUC conference room at the Joeten Dandan building. The purpose of the public hearing is to explain the proposed solution, which is the granular activated carbon filtration system that will eliminate or remove the Perfluorooctanoic acid and Perfluorooctane sulfonate contaminants from nine contaminated water wells at the Obyan and Isley Field. These wells are presently not in service; however, the water supply would be beneficial to the system.

PFOS and PFOA are human-made substances and are not naturally found in the environment. They have been used extensively in commercial goods (carpets, clothing, furniture, paper packaging for food) and in materials that are resistant to water, grease or stains such as cookware. They are also used in firefighting foams at airfields and in a number of industrial processes. Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was voluntarily phased out of production in the U.S. by its primary manufacturer.

While consumer products are a large source of human exposure to these chemicals, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have entered and contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an airfield at which they were used for firefighting.

EPA has established lifetime health advisories of 70 parts per trillion for combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. EPA health advisories include a margin of protection from adverse health effects when consumed at these levels over a lifetime.

The public is welcome to attend this hearing to learn more about these contaminants and CUC's proposed plan for a GAC filtration system to control the release of these chemicals into the Saipan water system. ***(CUC)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev 1.

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev.1 , Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than April 2, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 26, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Governor
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 237-2200 or (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after April 05, 2019, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Rehabilitation and Expansion of the Kagman Community Center	Construct new extension building; Rehabilitate Auditorium Building & Stage Area; Rehabilitate the male dressing room, female dressing room, music rehearsal room; and Gazebo	Kagman, Saipan	$323,081.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by **April 04, 2019,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Acting Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Arnold I. Palacios
Acting Governor

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Violent act, warped mind

It takes a twisted mind to believe that families worshipping peacefully in their mosques are "invaders," and that those who slaughter them are righteous protectors.

But there are people who believe that. Ones who actually unleash violence are rare. Much more common are those who goad them to it and cheer them for it. There are also, increasingly, political leaders who lend respectability to the idea that white Christians are the only legitimate citizens and residents of the United States and many European nations.

This way of thinking is deadly poison. Those who denounce the shocking violence while helping normalize the creed are dangerous, despicable hypocrites.

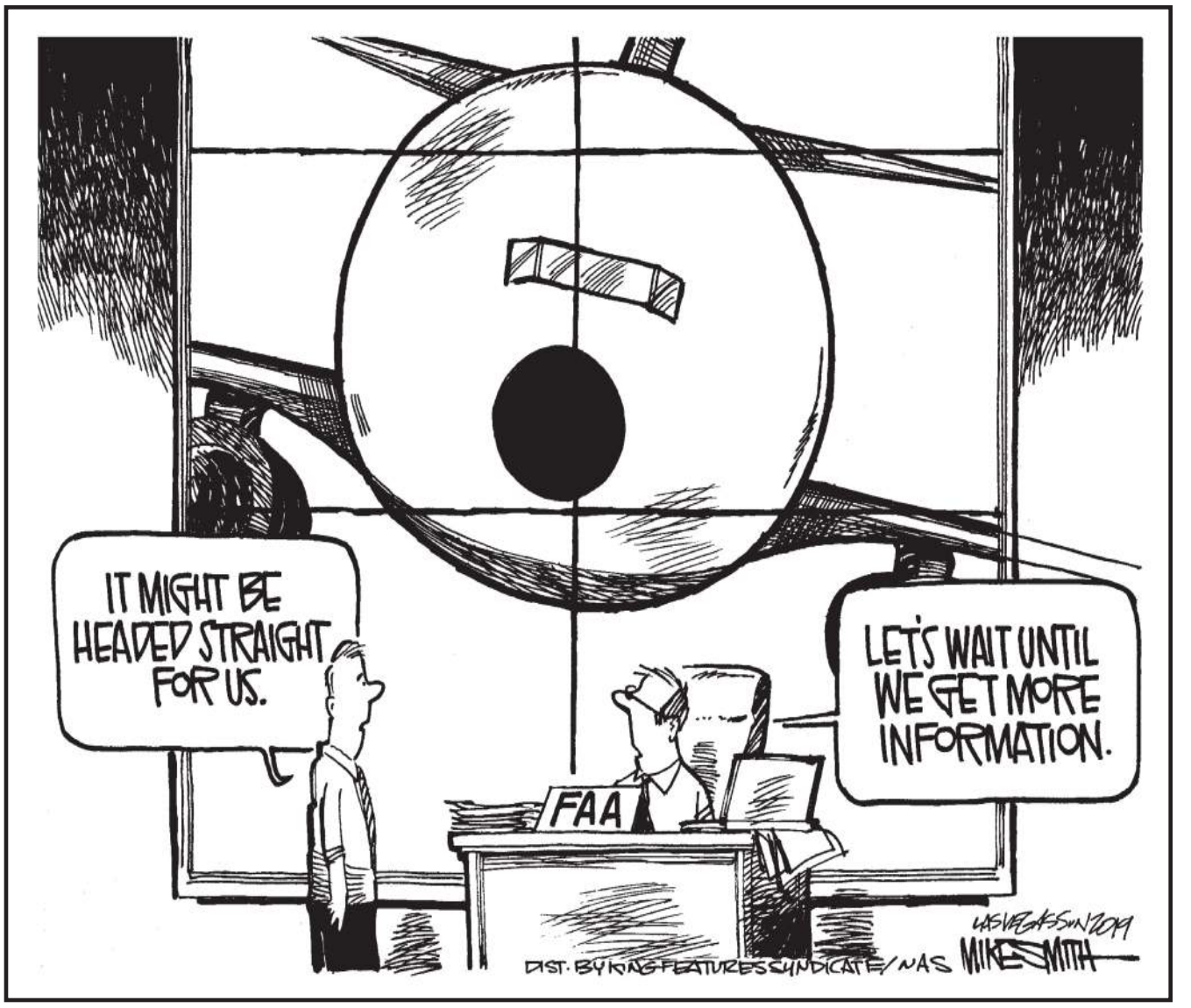
A gunman broadcasting his carnage via a helmet-camera, live on Facebook, took aim Friday at worshippers in and around two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. At least 49 people are dead, and more are wounded.

In a manifesto posted online before the killings, the 28-year-old Australian charged with the murders said he chose his victims because they are invaders replacing the white race. He sees an overarching conflict between people of European descent and Muslims, and thinks it's a reason to kill. And while such killings are still shocking, the ideas behind them are politically common in Europe, the United States and elsewhere.

At rallies, President Donald Trump reads a poem called "The Snake" which talks about a serpent killing a woman who is kind to it, as an analogy to the danger of immigration. Iowa Rep. Steve King asks when terms like "white nationalist" and "white supremacist" became offensive. Across Europe, far-right politicians embrace traditional racial and religious identity and cast diversity as a plague.

When the killer posted his grotesque philosophy and carnage Friday, some commenters cheered. The killings were unusual. The philosophy, and the support, are mainstream.

(c)2019 *Newsday*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Want to help fight climate change? Have more children

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.

Fear of climate change is justified. It is not, however, a reason not to have children. That's because those kids of yours are more likely to be part of the solution than the problem.

This view puts me at odds with millions of younger Americans; a recent online poll indicates that 38 percent of Americans aged 18 to 29 say climate change should be a factor in the decision to have children. (Perhaps the most prominent member of this cohort is Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who recently suggested on Instagram that climate change will make future lives so difficult that whether to have children is a "legitimate question.") There is even a Facebook group, called BirthStrike, for people who have decided not to have children because of climate change.

To put those worries out of mind, ask yourself a simple question: Is the remedy for climate change, to the extent we find one, more likely to come from North America or New Zealand? Obviously, the wealthier and more populous America is a more likely source of technological innovation, even though it is also a more significant source of greenhouse gases. So if you think progress in this fight is possible at all, you ought to be betting on the more populous nations. By having more children, you are making your nation more populous—thus boosting its capacity to solve the problem.

But even if your kid doesn't grow up to be a leading scientist or environmental crusader, she may still have a real impact. More people, according to Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Romer, create bigger markets for innovations. There are more medicines for common diseases than for rare diseases, precisely because market size is larger. By having more kids, you are increasing the demand for remedies to climate change. For instance, there are significant fixed costs to coming up with higher-quality electric cars or better solar panels. Investors put money into these areas only because they hope to sell a lot of units. Your children will help boost demand.

Furthermore, if you are sufficiently concerned about climate change that it might influence your child-bearing decisions, there is an above-average chance your children will share similar concerns; political views are to some extent inherited. That will make your kids more likely to want to alleviate the problem.

Look at it this way: If progress on climate change is at all possible, someone will need to contribute to it. Aren't your potential children among the most likely people to do that? If nothing else, they have an above-average chance of voting for political remedies for the problem, given how you will raise and instruct them.

Alternatively, you might think that climate change is such a huge and terrible problem that even marginal improvements are unlikely, never mind a comprehensive solution. If that's the case, then you should just do what you want right now and forget about future considerations altogether—whatever you decide, it won't matter.

Granted, this is a rather silly and nihilistic scenario, but the logic leads to the same result: You should have children if you want to. But by all means, encourage them to be vegetarians and cyclists.

Now consider the issue not in the context of your own decisions about family but in global terms, specifically per-capita carbon emissions. In the U.S., they have been declining for some time, due partly to the shift from coal to natural gas. Electric cars and solar panels, or perhaps nuclear fusion, could bring more progress yet. The future size of the carbon problem will be determined in Asia and Africa—dictated in large part by how fast these regions industrialize, grow and also eat more meat. So ideally you also would also teach your children to do good works—on the environmental front that is—for those parts of the world.

Then there is the matter of historical perspective. Parents had children in medieval times, or for that matter before antibiotics and vaccines. Of all the children who have ever existed, the vast

See WANT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How the admissions scandal helped me appreciate my parents

By MARIE MYUNG-OK LEE
Los Angeles Times

Marie Myung-Ok Lee has taught writing at Yale, Brown and Columbia. Her novel, The Evening Hero, *will be published in 2020. @MarieMyungOkLee*

No child's first choice of a Christmas present would be "1001 SAT Words" and underwear. But that's what I got the year I was 10. My parents came to the U.S. as Korean War refugees, and the gifts represented what they considered most important: education and primary needs.

As a child, I broke curves on tests and studied instead of going out with friends. I had an index card posted over my typewriter, HARVARD '86!!! because that's what my two older brothers had done. I remember PTA meetings in which teachers pleaded with my parents to let me just relax and play. But that wasn't going to happen.

As a teen I "rebelled" by surreptitiously sending an essay to Seventeen magazine and getting it published. My parents feared it might mean I was losing focus on my science track, though my father consoled himself that it might help my Harvard application. It didn't. I attended Brown University after being rejected from Harvard, which broke their hearts.

I've regaled friends for years with stories about my parents' excessive ambition for their children. But last week's news about how dozens of wealthy, scheming white parents (and one Asian dad) allegedly approached college admissions for their kids has helped me appreciate my tiger parents.

Prosecutors described bribery, faked disabilities, substitute test-takers, and Photoshopped pictures of kids pretending to be athletes—all part of alleged attempts by parents to buy their children admission into top-tier schools, including Yale and Stanford.

As a child, I wanted desperately to fit in. Being part of the only family of color in a Minnesota mining town made that hard. And the stigma was compounded by my having to stay in after school and on weekends to study and complete the additional work my father assigned to make up for schools he thought were far easier than those in Korea.

Math was always a sore subject. I had little aptitude for it, but my parents pushed me onto the honors track, where I took analytic geometry as an elective "fun" class. Almost everything post-algebra stymied me. You can't fake your way through integrals and logarithms. I begged my parents to let me just stay on the regular math track as I feared I was nearing a nervous breakdown.

My father's reply was always, "Sorry, Charlie" (cribbed from a TV ad at the time, in which Charlie the Tuna was rejected by StarKist because he just wasn't good enough). Having encountered racism early on in Jim Crow Alabama in the '50s, the lessons my parents took away from that experience were that we had to do better than whites, be incontestably great. The message about skipping out on math was clear: I had to work harder.

This is why it is so painful to learn that the college admissions system hardly resembles the meritocracy I'd imagined. The indictment describes how some kids didn't even have to show up for their SAT exams because others took the exam for them. When I took it, my father had to take a day off of work to drive me an hour away to the next town.

I didn't have any famous people to write my letters of recommendation—in fact, my counselor wrote mine. Having never been asked to write an Ivy League recommendation, she didn't understand I'd waived my right to see it, and obligingly made me a copy of it after she sent it. I was aghast to see she had mixed me up with my younger sister and wrote about different extracurriculars; seeing her mistakes always made me wonder a bit about my Harvard rejection.

I have often made gentle fun of my parents' obsession with education. This scandal has helped me to see their efforts as the expression of love they were. As immigrants and refugees, they had no resources to give me other than the time and attention to my education. Teachers sometimes criticized my upbringing as "unnatural," but the details revealed in Tuesday's indictment were far more unnatural. They make clear that my parents' obsessive strategy was a rational and smart choice given the horribly unlevel playing field.

One benefit of my upbringing was that when I got to college, I had a work ethic and a belief in myself. I needed it: Even as valedictorian, I was seriously under-prepared for college by my Midwestern public high school. My four years of German classes didn't even qualify me for skipping beginning German, and even though my parents took me to the library weekly, from which I'd bring home books in Hefty garbage bags, I was staggered by how much I hadn't read. But having been tiger-parented into college, I had the foundation—the underwear, so to speak—to get through.

Currently, a group of Asian American students who were rejected by Harvard, not unlike me, are suing, accusing the university of discriminating against Asian Americans in favor of black and Latino affirmative action candidates.

The truth is, however, that it's not blacks and Latinos who benefit from a rigged admissions process: Overwhelmingly, it's rich, mediocre whites who feel entitled to their place as a kind of birthright, that earning it is irrelevant.

Elite education, like healthcare, is a limited resource. Why in a rational world would we waste precious resources on someone like actress Lori Loughlin's daughter Olivia Jade, who was admitted to USC as a crew athlete even though she didn't row. The hundreds of thousands of dollars her parents are accused of spending to bribe admissions officials for an underachiever who publicly stated, "I don't know how much of school I'm gonna attend." She was looking forward, she said, to "game days" and "partying." A few days later, she apologized for the remarks, but it's hard not to think the money spent on getting her into school could have been much more profitably used to fund a dozen "Dreamer" immigrant students.

An acquaintance, trying to reach me through an old email, laughed recently at my newest ".edu" incarnation, Columbia. "You are such an Ivy League snob!" she exclaimed, not exactly meanly, but not nicely, either. I felt a gut-punch that I'm sure many people of color who have had elite educations would recognize. Did people think I was a snob? Did I really deserve the opportunities I'd been given? Was I a fraud?

I somehow doubt that the kids who get into top schools because of white privilege ask themselves those questions—maybe now they will start.

Birds and humans can't resist Zugunruhe—the urge to be gone

By CAROLINE VAN HEMERT
Los Angeles Times

Caroline Van Hemert is a wildlife biologist in Alaska and the author of The Sun Is a Compass: A 4,000-mile Journey into the Alaskan Wilds, *which was scheduled to be published March 19.*

In Alaska, spring comes in stages. The days grow longer, the sun finally rises before my late morning coffee break, and the darkness no longer feels eternal. I smell dirt for the first time in months as snow begins to peel back from the earth. The gulls arrive first, their stark white forms against the still-gray landscape impossible to ignore. What, at a glance, look like patches of fresh snow against frozen mud flats are instead winged messengers here to remind us that our lives are not static.

In front of my office window, tiny black-capped chickadees show off their acrobatics on a nearby birch tree, their fee bee songs a sweet serenade to the changing of the seasons. Persisting in temperatures of 20 or even 40 degrees below zero, these birds are among winter's small miracles. And now they are ready, perhaps more than any of us, to celebrate the return of light and warmth.

For birds, the urge to move cannot be contained. Its pull is so intense that a sandpiper's organs atrophy to accommodate the demands of migration. A caged robin will launch itself northward again and again, hammering against glass walls even if it has no view of the outdoors. There's a scientific term for this: Zugunruhe, a German word that means migratory restlessness.

There's no mistaking the signs. Wings fluttering, sleeplessness, disruption of normal activities. We've all experienced this feeling at some point. Suddenly the fact of sitting in an office chair under fluorescent lights in front of a blue computer screen seems not routine but intolerable.

Of course, I'm not a bird, and our human urges can't all be explained by an 18th century concept in ornithology, but we are also not immune to the whims of the seasons. Nor to the wonder of migration.

Two hundred and fifty years ago it was thought that swallows hibernated by burying themselves in mud all winter. The alternative seemed too outrageous—wings beating high above oceans and glaciers, following an invisible map thousands of miles just because. The everyday lives of birds are so remarkable that they challenge our human notions of logic.

As a biologist, I can't resist the lure of trying to understand the how and why of an act that seems nothing short of miraculous. Just over a decade ago, a female bar-tailed godwit traveled more than 7,000 miles from Alaska to New Zealand, marking the longest nonstop avian journey ever recorded. For eight days, she did nothing but fly, averaging close to 35 mph.

Since then, the technology of tracking devices has improved so dramatically that our knowledge about how and where species migrate is growing faster than at any other time. And yet it only makes our jaws drop further in awe. Unlike the magician's tricks that lose their magic once the screen has been removed, birds continue to amaze us with their physiology, endurance and flat-out grit. Even today when satellites indisputably track birds across computer screens, long-distance migrants show us how extraordinary the ordinary can be.

Among researchers, knowledge is king. But it's what we don't know that captures our human imaginations. In springtime, the two converge and collide, wonder meeting fact; inspiration finding its origin in our smallest winged companions.

Birds have little respect for borders. They have no patience for the inertia of everyday life. Each spring, I can't resist their calls, daring me to set out, like they do, into the world. If not for birds, I might not be dreaming of faraway places where the sun never sets. If not for birds, I wouldn't know the true meaning of endurance. In the fact of their small and determined bodies hurtling past, I see the possibility that I, too, might soar.

WANT

From Page 10

majority have been born into pretty tough circumstances. It is part of the human condition—even as we struggle to improve our lot. Let's not give up by ceasing to have children.

Finally, leave aside the implausibility of these arguments and consider their assumptions. What you'll find is zero-sum thinking, negative value judgments about large families, and an attempt to use guilt and shame to steer social and environmental policy. I suspect that is why these arguments are finding some traction, not because they are the result of any careful cost-benefit calculations.

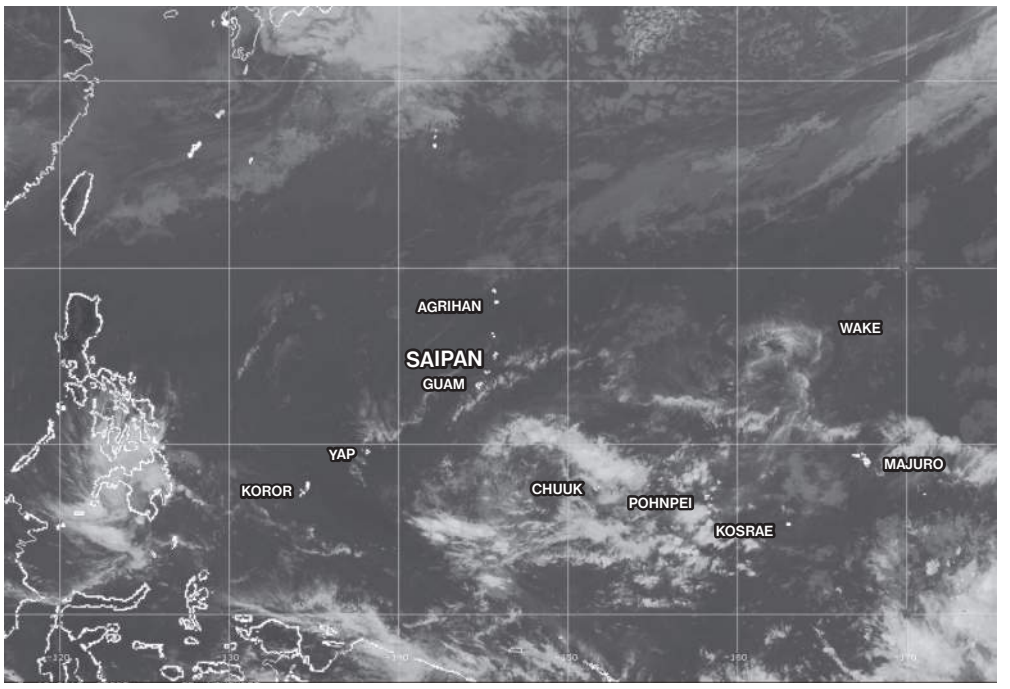
So if you are both worried about climate change and considering starting a family, I say: Put aside the unhelpful mess of emotions some participants in this debate are trying to stir up. Instead, focus on how your decision might boost future innovation. As a bonus, you might find that one of the better approaches to climate change is actually pretty fun.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
88° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:00 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence will generate mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers today through Wednesday. This pattern will repeat itself Sunday and Monday with mostly cloudy skies expected at that time. In between these two time periods only partly cloudy skies and isolated showers will prevail.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°
Palau	Showers	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Showers	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 79°
Beijing	Sunny	55° / 34°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 72°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 67°
London	Mostly Sunny	54° / 36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	79° / 61°
Miami	Showers	78° / 69°
New York	Mostly Sunny	50° / 35°
Osaka	Showers	68° / 55°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 43°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	64° / 41°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	66° / 46°
Salem	Sunny	65° / 41°
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 53°
Seoul	Sunny	61° / 37°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 54°
Washington, DC	Sunny	56° / 41°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:59 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.31
07:34 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.05
1:30 PM	LOW TIDE	0.69
6:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.07

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:21 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:21 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:36 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	-	6:25 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	-	7:12 AM	7:44 PM
Saturday	-	7:58 AM	8:42 PM
Sunday	-	8:44 AM	9:39 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/1936:25pm		11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Hawaii weighs first-in-nation plastic bans at restaurants

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii would be the first state in the U.S. to ban most plastics at restaurants under legislation that aims to cut down on waste that pollutes the ocean.

Dozens of cities across the country have banned plastic foam containers, but Hawaii's measure would make it the first to do so statewide. The liberal state has a history of prioritizing the environment — it's mandated renewable energy use and prohibited sunscreen ingredients that harm coral.

A second, more ambitious proposal would go even further and prohibit fast-food and full-service restaurants from distributing and using plastic drink bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, bags and straws.

The Hawaii efforts would be stricter than in California, which last year became the first state to ban full-service restaurants from automatically giving out plastic straws, and broader than in Seattle, San Francisco and other cities that have banned some single-use plastics.

Activists believe the foam container measure has a better chance of passing in Hawaii.

"We have this reputation of setting the example for the world to follow, and that's what we're trying to do here," state Sen. Mike Gabbard, lead author of the more ambitious measure, said to the Senate. "Our state can once again take the lead in protecting our environment."

Gabbard, father of Democratic presidential candidate and U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, said 95 percent of plastic packaging worldwide is thrown out after being used once. In the U.S., 500 million plastic straws are used and thrown out every day, he said.

Discarded, slow-to-degrade plastic is showing up at sea, as in a massive gyre northeast of the Hawaiian islands, and on beaches.

Plastics also contribute to climate change because oil is used to make them, said Stuart Coleman, Hawaii manager for the Surfrider Foundation.

Eric S.S. Wong, co-owner of two fast-food establishments on Oahu, said not being able to serve food in plastic foam containers would drive up his costs at a time when he faces rising health insurance charges for his employees and a possible minimum wage hike that lawmakers also are considering.

AP

In this Thursday, March 14, 2019 photo, Belinda Lau, manager of the Wiki Wiki Drive Inn takeout restaurant in Honolulu, holds a polystyrene foam box containing an order of roast pork, rice and salad.

He said he'll have to raise prices.

"Now all of the sudden, your family's $30 dining experience became $37 or $38," Wong said.

His Wiki Wiki Drive Inn takeout counter in Honolulu sells sandwiches, breakfast meals and Hawaii favorites like Loco Moco, which features white rice topped with a hamburger patty, fried egg and gravy.

A package of 200 foam boxes costs him $23, while the same number of biodegradable boxes would cost $57, he said.

Chris Yankowski of the Hawaii Restaurant Association, which represents 3,500 restaurants, said lawmakers are trying to do "too much too fast."

Yankowski, who is also president of Triple F Distributors, argued that good alternatives to plastic products are not yet available. Hawaii's cities and counties also don't provide composting facilities, so there is no organized place to dispose of compostable containers that lawmakers say restaurants should use instead, he added.

"It's almost like we want to do great things for the environment, but we're not ready to handle it when we change it over," Yankowski said.

The Hawaii Food Industry Association, which counts the state's biggest supermarkets and convenience stores as members, initially opposed the foam container ban but now supports it.

The group said in written testimony that it's encountered difficulties coping with varied local regulations and it wants the state to create a consistent standard. Two main counties — Hawaii and Maui — have already adopted plastic foam bans. Maui's took effect on Dec. 31, while Hawaii's takes effect on July 1.

The association still opposes the broader measure, which also would ban plastic garbage bags.

The president of Island Plastic Bags, a Hawaii company that makes plastic bags, said the legislation would prohibit his company from selling trash bags to nursing homes and hospitals as well as restaurants and hotels.

Grocery stores wouldn't be able to sell trash can liners, Adrian Hong said in written testimony. It would create a "public health crisis," he said.

AP source: Justice Dept. probing development of Boeing jets

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. prosecutors are looking into the development of Boeing's 737 Max jets, a person briefed on the matter revealed Monday, the same day French aviation investigators concluded there were "clear similarities" in the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max 8 last week and a Lion Air jet in October.

The Justice Department probe will examine the way Boeing was regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the inquiry is not public.

A federal grand jury in Washington sent a subpoena to someone involved in the plane's development seeking emails, messages and other communications, the person told The Associated Press.

The Transportation Department's inspector general is also looking into the FAA's approval of the Boeing 737 Max, a U.S. official told AP. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The Wall Street Journal reported on the probe Sunday said the inspector general was looking into the plane's anti-stall system. It quotes unidentified people familiar with both cases.

The anti-stall system may have been involved in the Oct. 29 crash of a Lion Air jet off of Indonesia that killed 189 people. It's also under scrutiny in the March 10 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jet that killed 157.

The Transportation Department's FAA regulates Chicago-based Boeing and is responsible for certifying that planes can fly safely.

The grand jury issued its subpoena on March 11, one day after the Ethopian Airlines crash, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press.

Spokesmen for the Justice Department and the inspector general said Monday they could neither confirm nor deny the existence of any inquiries. The FAA would not comment.

"Boeing does not respond to or comment on questions concerning legal matters, whether internal, litigation, or governmental inquiries," Boeing spokesman Charles Bickers said in an email.

The company late Monday issued an open letter from its CEO, Dennis Muilenburg, addressed to airlines, passengers and the aviation community. Muilenburg did not refer to the reports of the Justice Department probe, but stressed his company is taking actions to ensure its 737 Max jets are safe.

Those include an upcoming release of a software update and related pilot training for the 737 Max to "address concerns" that arose in the aftermath of October's Lion Air crash, Muilenburg said. The planes' new flight-control software is suspected of playing a role in the crashes.

White House foresees long economic boom where others don't

By JOSH BOAK
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

Contrary to the views of most economists, the Trump administration expects the U.S. economy to keep booming over the next decade on the strength of further tax cuts, reduced regulation and improvements to the nation's infrastructure.

The annual report from President Donald Trump's Council of Economic Advisers forecasts that the economy will expand a brisk 3.2 percent this year and a still-healthy 2.8 percent a decade from now. That is much faster than the Federal Reserve's long-run forecast of 1.9 percent annual economic growth.

The administration's forecast hinges on an expectation that it will manage to implement further tax cuts, incentives for infrastructure improvements, new labor policies and scaled-back regulations — programs that are unlikely to gain favor with the Democratic-led House that would need to approve most of them.

Kevin Hassett, chairman of the White House council, insisted that the president's economic agenda would provide enough fuel to drive robust growth at a time when the majority of economists foresee a slowdown due in part to the aging U.S. population.

He said the biggest risk to growth would be if financial markets anticipate that Trump's existing policies would be reversed. Without getting into specifics, Hassett said the risk would be if markets expect that the winner of the 2020 presidential election would shift away from policies such as the tax overhaul that Trump signed into law in 2017.

"Uncertainty over the policies themselves could slow their positive impact," Hassett said.

The tax cuts added roughly $1.5 trillion to the federal debt over the next decade, not accounting for economic growth. The report suggests that the lower tax rates have increased business investment in ways that will make the economy more productive, while also creating a surge in people coming off the sidelines to search for work.

The administration's optimism comes amid signs of slowing global economic growth, as well as a recent slowdown in manufacturing production and weakness in retail sales in January and December.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,914.10	2,832.94	7,714.48
+65.23	+10.46	+25.95
0.25%	0.37%	0.34%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.41	Hong Kong Dollar	7.85	Russian Ruble	64.33
British Pound	0.75	Indian Rupee	67.88	Singapore Dollar	1.35
Canadian Dollar	1.33	Japanese Yen	111.28	South Korean Won	1,111.01
Chinese Yuan	6.60	Malaysian Ringgit	4.03	Swiss Franc	1.00
Euro	0.88	New Zealand Dollar	1.46	Taiwan Dollar	30.27
		Philippine Peso	51.80	Thailand Baht	31.59

Nation

‘Angels of the sky’ offer flights into flooded Nebraska city

A Nebraska city walled off by massive flooding is getting a big lift from private pilots who are offering free flights to shuttle stranded residents to and from their hometown.

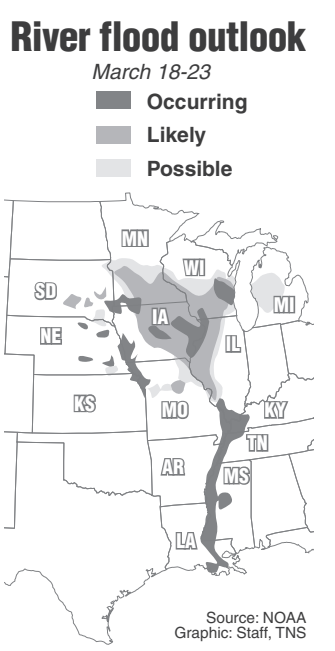
Flooding from the Platte River and other waterways is so bad that just one highway lane into Fremont remains uncovered, authorities said Monday. Emergency responders have restricted access for safety reasons, leaving residents in the city of 26,000 stuck on an island in the middle of Nebraska farm country, about 40 miles northwest of Omaha. The flooding in Fremont comes as communities in several Midwestern states grapple with swollen rivers and breached or overtopped levees following heavy rain and snowmelt.

After a weekend with no road access to the outside world, officials in Fremont said they still don’t know when any will reopen. The flights were a godsend for Sue Ankersen, 56, who lives in the city but wasn’t able to return home after baby-sitting her granddaughter in Omaha on Friday. Ankersen said she had never flown in a small plane before, but heard about the flights from her daughter and worked up the courage to go because she was homesick and wanted to volunteer to help others.

“I call them angels of the sky,” she said. “I’m just so thankful for these guys doing this.”

AP

Pilot Herb Johansen of Bennington, Neb., unloads supplies he volunteered to fly into the Fremont, Neb., airport, Monday, March 18, 2019.



The makeshift shuttle flights have led to a surge in air traffic at the Fremont Municipal Airport and its two runways. Pilots have flown in from at least five nearby airports in Nebraska as well as others in western Iowa and Kansas, said Jim Kjeldgaard, the airport’s operator.

Kjeldgaard estimated that at least 30 airplanes have flown more than 500 people since Friday, and the airport was still bustling on Monday morning.

“We’re going full steam today,” Kjeldgaard said. “It’s been a massive undertaking.”

He said pilots have taken passengers out of town to get to medical appointments, funerals and relatives who live elsewhere. They’ve also hauled water, food, toilet paper and other supplies. One pilot joked to Kjeldgaard that the airport was busier than Omaha’s Eppley Airfield, the state’s largest airport.

Most of the pilots heard of the effort by word of mouth and saw it as a chance to use their skills for a good purpose, said George Richmond, a flight instructor and former airline pilot. Richmond said he flew girls and their grandmother from Fremont to Lincoln on Sunday to unite them with family members.

“It’s a grassroots operation,” he said between flights in his Piper Comanche. “Pilots are doing it because it’s something we can do.”

Herb Johansen, a pilot from Bennington, removed the back two seats from his Piper Saratoga so he could haul water, diapers, clothing and food into town along with passengers—mostly college students from Midland University. He said the airplane traffic around Fremont is “hectic, maybe even semi-dangerous” because so many pilots are landing and taking off from the small airport.

Fremont City Administrator Brian Newton said it’s too early to say when the roads will reopen. Floodwaters from the Platte and Elkhorn rivers have forced the closure of U.S. Highways 77 and 275 on both the north and south sides of Fremont, and U.S. Highway 30 on the east and west sides of the city. Some Fremont police officers who live on the outskirts had to catch flights from the volunteer pilots so they could report to work, Newton said.

High profile arrest led Alabama police to genealogy testing

OZARK, Ala. (AP)—A truck-driving preacher arrested for killing two teenage girls from Alabama nearly 20 years ago was found by the same genealogy database techniques used to apprehend the suspected “Golden State Killer” last year.

Law enforcement interest in using genetic genealogy to crack cold cases has ballooned since the high-profile arrest of the suspected California serial killer who was found by running crime scene DNA through a genealogy database, said CeCe Moore, chief genetic genealogist with Parabon NanoLabs, which did the searches in the Alabama case.

On July 31, 1999, Tracie Hawlett and J.B. Beasley, both 17, set off for a party in southeastern Alabama. They never returned home. Their bodies were found the next day in the trunk of Beasley’s black Mazda along a road in Ozark, a city of 19,000 people located about 90 miles (145 kilometers) southeast of Montgomery. Each had a gunshot wound to the head.

The case sat unsolved for nearly two decades.

Ozark Police Chief Marlos Walker, who said he always believed the case could be solved, said the Golden State killer arrest inspired them to try something similar. “Let’s try that,’ Walker recalled.

Police on Friday arrested Coley McCraney, 45, of Dothan, Alabama after the genetic genealogy steered them in his direction.

Moore said the Alabama crime scene sample was analyzed and uploaded to GEDMatch, a public genetic database repository where over a million people have uploaded profiles from at-home ancestry kits.

“We are looking for second, third, fourth cousins and then we reverse engineer the family tree based on the people who are sharing DNA with that crime scene sample,” Moore said.

The police chief said the genetic genealogy work identified a family — which means at least one of McCraney’s relatives had uploaded information — and kinship testing narrowed the suspect list down to a single person. The police chief said they obtained DNA from McCraney — although he did not say how — and the state crime lab matched it to the DNA from the 1999 crime scene.

Interest is growing in the technique and Moore said the company is fielding calls for help in decades-old cases. Since May the company has helped provide law enforcement with identifications in 43 cases, she said.

She said genetic genealogy can help provide answers for families who have seen their loved one’ murders go unsolved for years. “The fact that we can finally provide those is just incredibly important,” Moore said.

While it has intrigued investigators as a means to develop new leads in once cold cases, the technology has raised red flags for others.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mom charged in killing of LA-area girl found in duffel bag

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman was arrested on suspicion of murder after the body of her 9-year-old daughter was found in a duffel bag along a suburban horse trail near Los Angeles, authorities said Monday. Taquesta Graham, 28, is expected to be charged with murder on Wednesday, Los Angeles County sheriff’s officials said. Prosecutors last week charged Graham’s boyfriend, Emiel Hunt, with murder in the killing of Trinity Love Jones. The dead girl was found March 5 at the bottom of an embankment in the suburb of Hacienda Heights. She was wearing pants with a panda pattern and a pink shirt that said, “Future Princess Hero.” There were no obvious signs of trauma on her body. Authorities have not revealed a cause of death or motive. Graham was extradited from Texas to California last week and was initially held on an unrelated warrant. Graham was in custody Monday and could not be reached for comment.

Kansas hopes to resurrect proof-of-citizenship voting law

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Kansas’ solicitor general on Monday called on a federal appeals court to reinstate the state’s law requiring people to provide proof of citizenship before they can register to vote, saying problems with how it was enforced during the three years it was in place are fixable. During a hearing before a three-judge panel of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Salt Lake City in a case with national implications for voting rights, Judge Jerome Holmes questioned attorneys for the state and for plaintiffs who succeeded in getting a lower court to overturn the law, which was in effect from 2013 until 2016. He pointed to evidence that it kept more than 30,000 people from registering to vote even though nearly all of them were citizens. Solicitor General Toby Crouse said there were problems with the way the law was implemented, but he argued that the state should be able to ensure that ballots are cast legally and called on the court to resurrect the law.

Police officer suspended amid white nationalist affiliation

CHESTERFIELD, Va. (AP)—A Virginia police officer has been removed as a school resource officer and suspended from the police department amid allegations that he’s a member of a white nationalist group. The Chesterfield County Police Department said Monday that he was suspended pending a recommendation for termination from the police chief, Col. Jeffrey Katz. Neither the department nor Katz named the officer. In a tweet, Katz said there is “NO PLACE for intolerant behavior in public service.” He said the department “will not accept affiliations which even remotely lend themselves to predispositions of bias.” The department’s Office of Professional Standards is investigating. Under Virginia law, the department must notify an officer in writing of any charges and the action that may be taken. The officer has at least five days to respond.

Asia

NZ leader vows to 'absolutely deny' mosque gunman a platform

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—The white supremacist accused of gunning down 50 people at two mosques in New Zealand has dismissed his lawyer and opted to represent himself at trial, prompting the prime minister to declare Tuesday that she would do everything in her power to deny him a platform for his racist views.

"I agree that it is absolutely something that we need to acknowledge, and do what we can to prevent the notoriety that this individual seeks," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern told reporters. "He obviously had a range of reasons for committing this atrocious terrorist attack. Lifting his profile was one of them. And that's something that we can absolutely deny him."

Asked if she would like the trial to occur behind closed doors, Ardern demurred, saying that was not her decision to make.

"One thing I can assure you—you won't hear me speak his name," she said.

The gunman's desire for infamy was made clear by the fact that he left behind a convoluted 74-page manifesto before Friday's massacre and livestreamed footage of his attack on the Al Noor mosque.

The video prompted widespread revulsion and condemnation by lawmakers and members of the public. Facebook said it removed 1.5 million videos of the shootings during the first 24 hours after the massacre. But on Tuesday, Ardern expressed frustration that the video remained available online, four days after the attack.

"We have been in contact with Facebook; they have given us updates on their efforts to have it removed, but as I say, it's our view that it cannot—should not—be distributed, available, able to be viewed," she said. "It is horrendous and while they've given us those assurances, ultimately the responsibility does sit with them."

Arden said she had received "some communication" from Facebook's Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg on the issue. The prime minister has also spoken with British Prime Minister Theresa May about the importance of a global effort to clamp down on the distribution of such material.

Lawyer Richard Peters, who was assigned to represent Brenton Harrison Tarrant at his initial court appearance on Saturday, told the New Zealand Herald that Tarrant dismissed him that day.

A judge ordered Tarrant to return to New Zealand's High Court on April 5 for his next hearing on one count of murder, though he is expected to face additional charges. He is being held in isolation in a Christchurch jail.

"He seemed quite clear and lucid, whereas this may seem like very irrational behavior," Peters told the newspaper. "He didn't appear to me to be facing any challenges or mental impairment, other than holding fairly extreme views."

AP

In this image made from video, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, center, hugs and consoles a woman as she visited Kilbirnie Mosque to lay flowers among tributes to Christchurch attack victims, in Wellington, Sunday, March 17, 2019.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Duterte publicly names 46 officials under drug investigation

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday publicly named 46 government officials, including three congressmen, he said are involved in illegal drugs, and added that criminal investigations against them are underway. Although critics have warned him against making such public announcements without solid evidence, Duterte said in a peace and order meeting shown on nationwide TV that he trusted the government agencies that provided the information. "My decision to unmask these drug personalities was anchored on my trust in the government agencies who had vetted and validated the narco list," Duterte said. He said the Department of Interior and Local Government has filed administrative complaints against the politicians. The government's Anti-Money Laundering Council and a presidential anti-corruption commission are both investigating the officials to build criminal cases against them, Duterte said. Many of the officials, including 33 mayors, eight vice mayors and three members of the House of Representatives, are running in midterm elections in May.

Asia bracing for destruction by alien pest: fall armyworms

THA MUANG, Thailand (AP)—Fall armyworms, a longtime American pest, are munching their way around the globe, raising alarm now in Asia after entrenching themselves in Africa. Experts say the insect was first found outside the Americas in 2016, in Africa, where it has infested up to half of some crops of maize, sorghum and millet. It's now spread through Yemen and South Asia to Thailand and China. The incursions of the alien species threaten to upend the balance between costs and returns for farmers in Thailand and elsewhere. Pesticides are costly, toxic and don't always work. The bug's new habitats may lack natural enemies needed to control it, the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organization says. It's holding a conference in Bangkok this week to share information and strategies on battling the pest.

7 dead, others shot in election-related attack in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Gunmen opened fire on two cars returning from a polling station with ballot boxes, killing at least seven people and wounding 15 in part of southeastern Bangladesh known for tribal life and tourism, officials said Tuesday. Local police official Manjurul Alam said early Tuesday that the attack took place on Monday evening when the polling and security officials were returning from the polling station at Baghaichhari in Rangamati district, an area once hit by tribal insurgency. It was not immediately clear who were behind the attacks. He said military helicopters carried 11 critically injured people to a military hospital in neighboring Chittagong. Authorities increased security in the region after the violence, he said. Voting was held in Rangamati to elect local government officials, but some candidates boycotted, citing irregularities. Several armed tribal groups are still active in the district, which shares borders with India and Myanmar. The district is famous for lakes, forested hills and tribal life, and thousands of tourists, mostly Bangladeshi, visit each year.

Pro-Thaksin candidates adopt his name in Thai election

PHIMAI, Thailand (AP)—It's election season in Thailand and a campaign truck is rolling at the crack of dawn through the streets of the northeastern town of Phimai, blaring the slogan "Vote Thaksin, Get Thaksin."

It's a bit disconcerting, since the Thaksin everyone in Thailand knows is former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, ousted by a 2006 military coup and living in self-imposed exile since 2008 to avoid serving a prison term for a conviction on a conflict of interest charge.

This small-town Thaksin, distributing campaign handbills as he walks ahead of the truck, is a 46-year-old schoolteacher.

He happily explains that sharing his name with the 69-year-old former prime minister is no coincidence, and that he changed his former name—Veerawit Chuajunud—to Thaksin Chuajunud as a vote-getting tactic.

Phimai, in Nakhon Ratchasima province, is in Thailand's poor rural region known as Isan, the heartland of the neglected farmers and villagers who represent the original and still largely loyal base of the former prime minister, a billionaire now living in Dubai.

"I want to grab the attention of the people, making sure that my name is easy to remember. I only have one to two months to campaign, so I decided to change my name to be symbolic," said the candidate in Sunday's general election.

The name-changing tactic may be tricky, but it's not insincere. Phimai's Thaksin is running as a candidate for Pheu Chart, one of several small parties established by allies and supporters of the former prime minister.

There is an established flagship pro-Thaksin party, Pheu Thai, but election laws established by the anti-Thaksin military government targeting the former leader's political machine are aimed at keeping any large party from obtaining a legislative majority. So the pro-Thaksin strategy is to splinter the machine into separate parties that could unite forces after the election.

Name-changing is a tactic to help overcome confusion over political brands, especially for the new, lesser-known satellite parties. It also helps to stand out in a large field of candidates. More than 11,000 are registered for Sunday's vote, compared to just over 2,800 in the last election.

Thaksin Chuajunud is one of 15 candidates from his party who made opportunistic name changes. Most took on the name "Thaksin," but four adopted the name of Thaksin's sister, Yingluck, who became prime minister in 2011 and was forced from office by a controversial court decision just before the military ousted her government in another coup. She also has faced court cases that supporters charge amount to political persecution, and likewise fled into exile.

Phimai's Thaksin is on fairly friendly ground as he introduces himself at a local market. It's been more than a decade since Isan's political hero, the former prime minister, even set foot on Thai soil, but he is not forgotten.

"I wish he would come back. I wish that every day and every minute. I don't know how and I have never really said this. I do miss him. I am concerned about him, and I quietly give him my support," says farmer Pajaree Changkodpanao, wiping away tears.

Pro-Thaksin parties, despite serious roadblocks put in their way by Thailand's traditional conservative political establishment, have won every national election since 2001.

World

Over 1,000 feared dead after cyclone slams into Mozambique

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—More than 1,000 people were feared dead in Mozambique four days after a cyclone slammed into the country, submerging entire villages and leaving bodies floating in the floodwaters, the nation's president said.

"It is a real disaster of great proportions," President Filipe Nyusi said.

Cyclone Idai could prove to be the deadliest storm in generations to hit the impoverished southeast African country of 30 million people.

It struck Beira, an Indian Ocean port city of a half-million people, late Thursday and then moved inland to Zimbabwe and Malawi with strong winds and heavy rain. But it took days for the scope of the disaster to come into focus in Mozambique, which has a poor communication and transportation network and a corrupt and inefficient bureaucracy.

Speaking on state Radio Mozambique, Nyusi said that while the official death toll stood at 84, "It appears that we can register more than 1,000 deaths."

Emergency officials cautioned that while they expect the death toll to rise significantly, they have no way of knowing if it will reach the president's estimate.

AP

In this photo taken on Friday, March 15, 2019 and provided by the International Red Cross, an aerial view of the destruction of homes after Tropical Cyclone Idai, in Beira, Mozambique.

More than 215 people were killed by the storm in the three countries, including more than 80 in Zimbabwe's eastern Chimanimani region and more than 50 in Malawi, according to official figures. Hundreds more were reported injured and missing, and nearly 1,000 homes were destroyed in eastern Zimbabwe alone.

Doctors Without Borders said rivers have broken their banks leaving many houses fully submerged and around 11,000 households displaced in Nsanje, in southern Malawi.

U.N. agencies and the Red Cross helped rush emergency food and medicine by helicopter to the stricken countries.

Mount Chiluvo in central Mozambique was badly hit by flooding. One resident said he heard a loud noise, like an explosion, and suddenly saw a river of mud rolling toward his home.

"I was indoors with my children, but when we looked we saw mud coming down the road towards the houses and we fled," Francisco Carlitos told Lusa, the Portuguese News Agency. The family lost their home and possessions but safely reached higher ground.

The country's president, who cut short a visit to neighboring Swaziland over the weekend because of the disaster, spoke after flying by helicopter over Beira and two rural provinces, where he reported widespread devastation.

"The waters of the Pungue and Buzi rivers overflowed, making whole villages disappear and isolating communities, and bodies are floating," Nyusi said.

The United Nation's humanitarian office said the government issued flood warnings and said heavy rains were forecast for the next 24 hours, including in areas already hit hard by Idai.

The Red Cross said 90 percent of Beira was damaged or destroyed. The cyclone knocked out electricity, shut down the airport and cut off access to the city by road.

U.N. officials cited reports that Beira Central Hospital's emergency room was flooded and without power, and that much of the building's roof had collapsed. Doctors Without Borders said it had completely ceased operations in Beira hospital, local health centers and throughout the community.

The destruction in Beira is "massive and horrifying," said Jamie LeSueur, who led a Red Cross team that had to assess the damage by helicopter because of the flooded-out roads.

The U.N. also warned of devastation outside Beira, in particular of livestock and crops.

"As this damage is occurring just before the main harvest season, it could exacerbate food insecurity in the region," the U.N. humanitarian office known as OCHA said.

Mozambique is a long, narrow country with a 2,400-kilometer (1,500-mile) coastline along the Indian Ocean. It is prone to cyclones and tropical storms this time of year.

In 2000, Mozambique was hit by severe flooding caused by weeks of heavy rain, a disaster made much worse when a cyclone hit. Approximately 700 people were killed in what was regarded as the worst flooding in 50 years.

Gunman kills 3 on Dutch tram; mayor fears terrorism

UTRECHT, Netherlands (AP)—A gunman killed three people and wounded five during a mid-morning tram ride Monday in the Dutch city of Utrecht, raising the specter of another extremist attack only days after the murderous rampage in New Zealand.

Authorities seized a Turkish-born suspect after a manhunt that convulsed the historic city of nearly 350,000 people for most of the day.

As night set in, three victims lay in critical condition, and the motive for the bloodshed remained under investigation. Prime Minister Mark Rutte said authorities were trying to determine whether the attack had "terror motives."

Justice Minister Ferd Grapperhaus said the suspect, identified as Gokmen Tanis, 37, was known to justice authorities and had a criminal record, but would not elaborate. Police said they also detained another man on suspicion of involvement but released no details.

The shooting came three days after 50 people were killed when an immigrant-hating white supremacist opened fire at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, during Friday prayers. There was no immediate indication of any link between the two events.

The Utrecht attack took place at a busy intersection in a residential neighborhood. The gunman was alleged to have had an automatic weapon, Grapperhaus said.

"We assume a terror motive," Mayor Jan van Zanen said as police searched for the killer, though he added that other motives could not be ruled out.

In the aftermath of the shooting, Dutch authorities put the Netherlands' fourth-largest city on lockdown, raised the threat level in the area to the maximum of 5 and tightened security at airports and key buildings in the country. Police issued a photo of a bearded Tanis aboard a tram in a blue hooded top.

"If it is a terror attack," the prime minister declared, "then we have only one answer: Our nation, democracy, must be stronger than fanaticism and violence."

Heavily armed officers with dogs searched for the killer, gathering at one point in front of an apartment building close to the scene. However, the suspect was later arrested at another location in the city. The threat level soon returned to 4.

Police said a red Renault compact car was carjacked shortly before the shooting and later found across town.

Local media said Tanis had been charged several times over the past years with offenses ranging from attempted manslaughter to petty crime in and around Utrecht. Two weeks ago he was in court on charges of raping of woman in 2017, news reports said.

The identities of the shooting victims were not immediately released, and Grapperhaus would not say if any were known to the gunman.

Political parties halted campaigning ahead of provincial elections scheduled for Wednesday that will also determine the make-up of Parliament's upper house. A televised debate also was canceled. It was not clear if campaigning would resume Tuesday.

France bans some yellow vest protests in Paris after riots

PARIS (AP)—France's prime minister announced a ban Monday on yellow vest protests along the Champs-Elysees Avenue in Paris and in two other cities following riots on Saturday that left luxury stores ransacked and charred from arson fires.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said the ban will apply for an unspecified period in the neighborhoods that have been "the most impacted" in the cities of Paris, Bordeaux and Toulouse, where repeated destruction has occurred since the yellow vest protest movement began in November.

He also said Paris police chief Michel Delpuech will be replaced this week by prefect Didier Lallement.

Philippe announced the measures following a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron and top security officials that sought to avoid a repeat of Saturday's violence, in which rioters set life-threatening fires, ransacked luxury stores and attacked police around the Champs-Elysees. Many of those high-end boutiques remained closed on Monday, some of them charred from arson fires set.

He acknowledged "dysfunction" in French police operations on Saturday, rejecting "inappropriate" orders given to security forces to use fewer rubber bullets following a controversy about the numerous injuries they've caused at previous protests.

Philippe also announced a shift in security strategy to allow police forces to have a greater initiative on the ground to take measures against rioters and disperse crowds. He said police will use new tools, including drones and video surveillance, to help preventing violence and send rioters to trial.

"When a protest has been banned and its aim is to ransack and loot, all of those who take part it in and, in fact, protect looters, encourage them or glorify them online, are complicit and will have to face the consequences," he said.

Philippe promised "nothing will change" for other peaceful, authorized protests.

The surge in violence came as the 4-month-old yellow vest movement, which is pressing for more economic justice, has been dwindling. Images of the destruction on Saturday— including from a bank fire that engulfed a residential building and threatened the lives of a mother and child—could further erode public support.

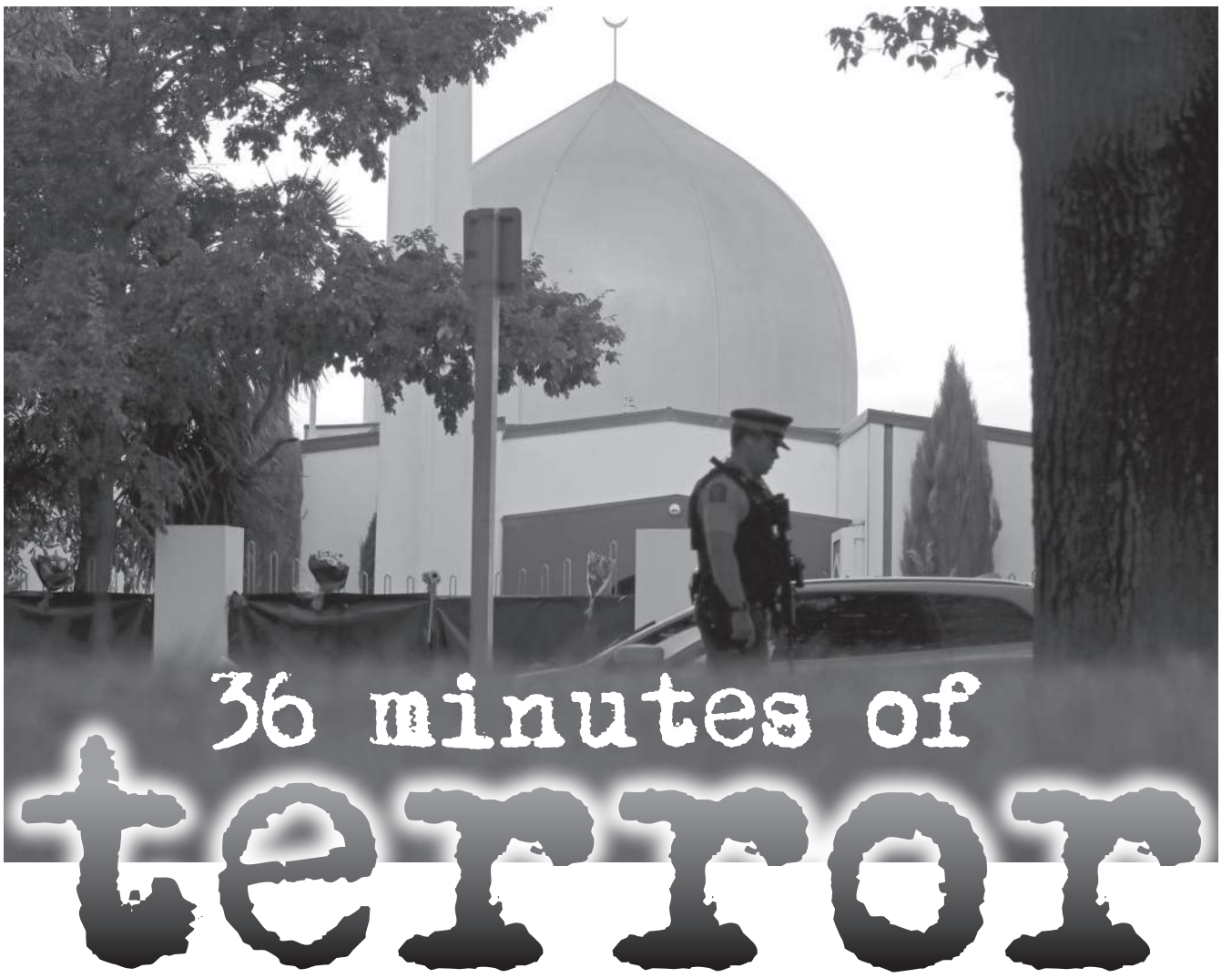
But the renewed attention energized some protesters, who took to social networks to call for new protests this Saturday to demand lower taxes and more support for workers.

The Finance Ministry held a meeting Monday with groups representing small businesses, restaurants, hotels, insurance companies and banks to estimate the economic impact of the protests.

The Paris region's Chamber of Commerce said 91 businesses suffered consequences from Saturday's riot at the Champs-Elysees, 80 percent of which were severely damaged. It called for an "emergency plan" to support those shopkeepers and employees.

Focus

By NICK PERRY, KRISTEN GELINEAU and JULIET WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS



CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—On March 15, New Zealand changed. Some are calling it a loss of innocence, a reminder that distance doesn't bring protection against violence. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has vowed to change gun laws and investigate what went wrong. This is how 36 minutes of terror unfolded, according to witness accounts and livestream video.

1:32 p.m.

Ardern and about 30 other people get a chilling email from Brenton Tarrant. He has attached a manifesto filled with racism and hatred as he tries to justify why he is about to carry out a massacre.

Its 74 pages are riddled with contradictions. He talks about the years he spent roaming the world and how "the varied cultures of the world greeted me with warmth and compassion."

Twelve pages in, he says he will target mosques in Christchurch and Linwood, as well as one in the town of Ashburton if he makes it that far.

Tarrant, a 28-year-old Australian not known to the country's intelligence or law enforcement agencies and who held a valid gun license, writes that he planned and trained for an attack for a couple of years after moving to the city of Dunedin, about a five-hour drive south of Christchurch.

He says he settled on Christchurch because the mosque there, with its prominent golden dome, is busier and looks more distinctively foreign.

A member of Ardern's staff sees the email and, two minutes after it arrives, forwards it to parliamentary security. But Tarrant's plan is already in motion.

He is sitting in his gold Subaru station wagon in a parking area in a black paramilitary outfit. He turns on a helmet camera and begins an internet livestream.

"Let's get this party started," he says.

1:41 p.m.

It's Friday prayers, and the Al Noor mosque is filled with people. The imam, Gamal Fouda, has just finished the Khutbah, a sermon delivered in Arabic. He is starting the next part in which he translates it into English. The Khutbah is the most serious part of the prayer, where rapt attention is required and the worshippers are silent.

The sermon is about cooperating with each other, doing good and stopping evil.

As the gunman approaches the mosque, a man in the entrance calls out cheerfully, "Hello, brother." Tarrant fires nine shots, one after another, and walks past the first bodies.

Fouda hears shooting in the hallway and sees people start to run. He stops speaking. "It was chaos," he says.

The gunman's livestream shows him moving into the main prayer room and firing at everyone he sees. It is a big room and has few exits.

An Algerian man smashes a window on one side of the room, Fouda says, and people start pouring out through the jagged glass. On the other side, the people there try to do the same. But the bodies begin piling up at the makeshift exits.

"And he was actually standing behind them, and he was shooting and shooting and shooting and shooting," Fouda says. "Tragedy. Tragedy."

Fifty-year-old Naeem Rashid, a teacher who moved to New Zealand from Pakistan with his family when he was 11, rushes up behind Tarrant, trying to grab the gun. Tarrant turns around and shoots him dead.

Asif Shaikh, 44, tries to run but falls in the crush of bodies. He thinks about trying to make it to the exit when he sees somebody else make the same move and get shot. So he lies there, next to an old man who has been shot in the thigh. They are exposed and uncovered, but somehow they survive. Days later he still can't sleep, the sounds of gunshots ringing in his head.

Kawthar Abulaban, 54, is in the women's prayer area with a couple of dozen other women. She hears a single shot at first, enough for some of them to jump up and ask, "What's wrong?" Then a pause and a second shot and a dawning realization. Soon, there is a barrage of bullets. Dozens upon dozens upon dozens.

The women scatter in all directions. Three huddle together in a cupboard in one of the bathrooms. But the shooter seems to be concentrating on shooting men, Abulaban says. She runs out of the mosque.

Tarrant walks outside, where he shoots people on the sidewalk. Children scream in the distance as he returns to his car to get another gun. He walks back inside the mosque and shoots again at motionless bodies on the floor, methodically firing bullets into them over and over.

He walks out again and shoots at a woman walking toward him on the street. She falls to the pavement and begs, "Help me! Help me!" before he shoots her again.

Since firing the first shot, the gunman has spent six minutes at the mosque. There are no sounds of sirens, no SWAT teams arriving. People are proud of New Zealand's friendliness. Unlike in most other countries, the police don't carry guns. They keep them in their cars for emergencies.

The worst mass shooting up until now was nearly 30 years ago in the small town of Aramoana, where a gunman killed 13 people following a dispute with a neighbor.

Tarrant gets back in his car. The song "Fire" by Arthur Brown blasts from the speakers, the singer declaring, "I am the god of hellfire!"

When Paul Bennett, an ambulance driver, arrives later, he sees blood flowing along the terra cotta tiles.

"There was a river of blood coming out of the mosque," he says.

1:48 p.m.

The shooter's rampage continues as he drives away from the Al Noor mosque. Yasir Amin and his father, Muhammad Amin Nasir, are walking along the sidewalk when a car stops and a man begins firing.

They run, but at 67, Nasir can't keep up with his son. As Amin turns to yell at his father to get down, he sees the older man has already been hit and is falling.

The gunman drives away. Nasir stares up at his son, unable to speak, blood pooling around his body. Amin grabs a phone from a nearby car and calls police. Father and son are taken to the hospital, where a critically wounded Nasir begins his recovery.

Neighbor Len Peneha helps several people who have escaped the mosque take shelter in his house until police arrive. He walks into the mosque and sees bodies everywhere.

"It's unbelievable nutty," he says. "I don't understand how anyone could do this to these people, to anyone. It's ridiculous."

The gunman speeds toward the Linwood mosque. There are no sirens. He stops as two people cross the road in front of his car, unaware that anything out of the ordinary is going on. He blasts his horn at them and continues.

There are so many bodies piled at the Al Noor mosque that it will take police more than a day to find one of them. In all, 42 people are dead there.

1:50 p.m.

Tarrant is speeding toward the Linwood mosque, weaving through traffic, blasting his music. It's been nine minutes since he fired his first shot. Finally, a single siren can be heard in the distance.

The gunman talks as he drives: "A lot of them survived, unfortunately. They all ran pretty quickly," he says. "The noise scared them. The women weren't in yet. I got the men first," he says, before the livestream cuts out.

1:55 p.m.

The Linwood mosque is about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the Al Noor mosque but isn't as grand. It's a plain building in a poor neighborhood.

Inside, 33-year-old Elliot Dawson is praying with about 80 others when he hears the first shots. No one reacts at first because they're immersed in prayer.

Latef Alabi, who is leading the prayers, peeks out the window. When he sees Tarrant in his black gear and helmet, carrying a big gun, he thinks it's a police officer and isn't worried. Then he sees bodies and hears the man yelling obscenities.

"I realized this is something else. This is a killer," he says.

The gunshots continue. Dawson's friend goes outside and comes running back in: "Everyone, get down! Get down! Get down!"

Dawson hurries to a bathroom, huddles in a stall and climbs onto the toilet so his feet won't be visible. He tries to squeeze through a window but can't fit. He wonders if this is the moment his life will end.

Another man in the mosque, Abdul Aziz, picks up a handheld credit card machine and rushes outside screaming, hoping to distract the attacker. As Tarrant runs back to his Subaru to get another gun, Aziz throws the machine at him.

Aziz's two younger sons are yelling at him to come back inside. Tarrant has gotten a gun and returns, firing at him. Aziz runs, zigzagging through cars in the driveway. He picks up a gun that Tarrant has tossed aside, aims and fires, but it's empty.

Tarrant runs back to his car again, probably to grab yet another weapon.

"He gets into his car and I just got the gun and threw it on his window like an arrow and blasted his window," Aziz said.

The windshield shatters: "That's why he got scared."

The gunman is cursing at him, yelling that he is going to kill them all. But he drives away, and Aziz chases the car down the street to a red light before it makes a U-turn and speeds away.

Seven people are dead at the Linwood mosque, a number many think could have been much higher if not for the actions of Aziz. One more person dies later at Christchurch Hospital and the death toll reaches 50.

Dawson says that someday, he hopes to come back to the mosque to pray again. He later stands on the street outside the mosque, holding a sign that reads, "We're all the same on the inside."

2:07 p.m.

Two police officers ram Tarrant's car, forcing it off the road, and drag him out. The next day he is charged with one count of murder, with more charges expected.

Many of the victims had moved to New Zealand to seek better lives in a country known for its beauty, friendliness and safety. Among the victims are engineers, business owners, students and a goalkeeper for the national futsal team. It is a modified form of soccer, typically played indoors.

The youngest of the victims is Mucaad Ibrahim, 3, who had big brown eyes and always seemed to be laughing. He had an intelligence beyond his years, a friend says. And he loved watching his big brother play soccer.

Good Housekeeping

6 edible flowers that make a lovely, tasty treat for your spring garden

By JEANETTE MARANTOS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

With their abundant colors and diversity of shapes, flowers are a buoyant feast for the eyes, and often our noses as well, with their varied perfumes.

But many flowers aren't just pretty. They pack a punch for the palate too, with flavors that are surprisingly intense and addicting. They might make a tasty addition to your spring garden.

Some edible flowers are from vegetable plants, like summer squash blossoms, which can be stuffed with cheese, rolled up and quickly sautéed in butter, and they're just delicious, says Tom Yost of Carol Gardens in Riverside, a grower of organic herbs and vegetables.

But Yost's favorite edible flowers are from herbs, with subtler or deeper flavors than the stems and leaves.

Herbs are relatively easy to grow. They don't need super nutrients in their soil or tons of water, Yost said, and they can thrive in containers or the ground.

"They're not picky about their soil," he said, "but if you have a clay soil or decomposed granite, they can get stressed during the superhot months, so compost or mulch can help."

As anyone who's grown basil knows, the herbs will start to flower unless you cut them back regularly. That's what makes them good companion plants in the vegetable garden, because the flowers attract all kinds of beneficial pollinating insects. (And a bonus: When you're working in the garden, their fragrance is a little gift when you brush against them.)

Herbs like at least six to seven hours a day of full sun — too much shade and they'll get leggy and spindly — but they're also very hardy, Yost said.

"Right now, we have a mass of flowering arugula that's about 3 feet tall and 5 feet wide. It went through the freeze and frost and finally fell over during these last heavy rains," Yost said. "But my wife, Linda, won't let me cut it back because she loves snacking on the flowers."

Linda Yost is the chef in the family, and frequently incorporates flowers into her meals. Here are six of the Yosts' favorite edible flowers:

■ Anise hyssop is a humble herb with a lovely violet flower that offers a gentler version of the plant's strong anise/licorice flavor. Yost recommends pulling off the little flowerettes and sprinkling them in salads. "It's very subtle, so you're not getting a big flash of licorice," he said. The flowers are also a nice addition to desserts or to expand the sensory experience of a drink. "Use it as a garnish on top, so what you do is sip and smell."

Lavendar ice cream. TNS

■ Lavender is a key ingredient in herbs de Provence, the dried mixture of herbs that imparts that distinctive "je ne sais quoi" quality to the cuisine of the South of France, but the tiny fragrance-packed buds also add flavor to a variety of dishes, from lavender ice cream to meat rubs to jasmine rice, said Linda Yost. "I sprinkle in four or five little flowers at the start of cooking, and it just makes the flavor pop." Be sparing, Yost said, because too much makes food taste soapy, and he recommends using only certain varieties for eating — basically the French varieties of Grosso, Munstead, and De Provence.

■ Arugula flowers are a little homely, but if you're a fan of this peppery green, the flowers have a taste that's absolutely addictive — nutty with a more subtle flavor of pepper and spice. "They're good for people with nut allergies, because they give you that nutty tannin flavor without the allergic reaction," Yost said. Add them to salads or as toppings to ice cream or yogurt, or just eat them straight as a snack. "They pair well with sweet dishes, mixing savory with sweet, like chocolate and pretzels."

■ Borage is another pedestrian-looking plant that creates eye-popping, otherworldly flowers, all the more remarkable because, of all things, they taste like cucumbers. The leaves and stems have that flavor too, but they also have little hairs that make eating unpleasant. The flowers, on the other hand, are smooth and lovely to behold in salads. "Linda likes to put them in ice cube trays, cover them with water and freeze them," Yost said. "They make great flavored waters."

■ Lemon verbena is a boring-looking plant until you brush against its leaves and the smell of lemon nearly knocks you out. The flowers are tiny but pack a wallop. "They're the only plants you can add to water without boiling and get an intense flavor," Yost said. The flowers make great flavored water and ice cubes, he said, are they're delicious in ice cream. "I put crushed flowers and leaves in heavy cream, bring it to a simmer for just 10 minutes and then let it cool and strain the leaves out," said Linda Yost. "That's how strong it is."

■ Nepitella, also known as lesser calamint, is an essential herb in Italian cooking but little known in the United States. Yost discovered it a few years ago, when the owner of Riverside's popular Mario's Place restaurant asked if he had any to sell. Now it's one of his most popular plants, he said, and usually sells out every year. It looks like a large-leafed oregano, "but when you eat it, it rolls across your palate four beautiful flavors — savory, thyme, oregano and mint," he said. "Oregano has a strong peppery finish, but nepitella ends in mint." The deep-throated violet flowers are an excellent garnish on meats, pasta and sauces, and add a savory minty punch to drinks.

How and when to rejuvenate old shrubs, prune hydrangeas

By JESSICA DAMIANO
NEWSDAY

Recently, I wrote about selective pruning, an important maintenance practice used to remove broken, damaged and diseased branches from trees and shrubs. Selective pruning is used to improve their shape, control their size and increase air circulation to discourage disease. But there's another, more severe, method of pruning — rejuvenation pruning — and if it's warranted, now is the ideal time to undertake the task.

Rejuvenation pruning is the extreme cutting back of (otherwise healthy) overgrown or underproductive shrubs. The method should be used when shrubs have become overgrown, present with a wide open area in their centers or simply have declined and are failing to thrive, fruit or flower. The goal is to force the plant to replace older, weaker stems and less productive branches with fresh, new, vigorous ones. It's drastic, but when all is said and done, it will be like having a brand-new plant.

Do not attempt rejuvenation pruning on needled evergreen shrubs. They should never be pruned beyond their needles, that is, cuts shouldn't be made on bare wood. Likewise, do not completely cut down shrubs that grow from a single trunk. Rejuvenation pruning is intended for caning shrubs, those that send up multiple stems straight from the ground.

To rejuvenate your shrubs and bushes, you have three options:

1. Sever the entire plant by cutting it down to the soil line. This method requires a certain level of intestinal fortitude because, let's face it, it can be nerve-wracking to cut a mature plant to the ground. Waiting for it to grow back while looking at a gap in your landscape isn't pleasant either, and the time it takes to grow back can vary widely, according to the type of shrub. But this method will provide the most uniform results.

2. Prune all the branches to unequal heights in one session. Begin by removing broken, crisscrossed and diseased branches at their bases, then stand back and visualize the overall size and shape you'd like, and prune each remaining stem or branch, some long and others shorter, making each cut above an outward-facing lateral branch or bud. It's from these buds that new, outward growth will be stimulated.

3. Remove one-third of the plant's branches each year over the course of three years, starting with the oldest, least productive. This is the least severe method, as well as the least intrusive to your landscape, but you have to remember to follow through and complete the second and third phases over the next two years.

Rejuvenation pruning is well-suited for caning plants such as:

■ Beautyberry
■ 'Burning bush' Euonymus
■ Choke berry
■ Cotoneaster
■ Forsythia
■ Lilac
■ Purple sandcherry
■ Redtwig dogwood
■ Rose of Sharon
■ Viburnum

HYDRANGEA PRUNING GUIDELINES

There are five species of hydrangeas, each with its own requirements. Take heed, as pruning at the wrong time will risk a bloomless season.

■ Hydrangea macrophylla (mopheads and lacecaps): Prune in late summer, as soon as the flowers fade, but never after September. Remove weaker stems from the base of the plant, being careful to retain several stems of old wood, which will produce buds for next year's flowers. You can prune now, too, but it will cost you flowers this year.

■ Hydrangea arborescens 'Grandiflora' (smooth hydrangea): Cut to the ground in late winter/early spring. If the plant survived the winter nicely, however, and you'd like it to grow better, do a light selective pruning, cutting branches to varying heights.

AP

Caning plants, such as this red dogwood bush, are perfectly suited for rejuvenation.

■ Hydrangea paniculata Grandiflora (panicle hydrangea; Peegee): Simply remove spent flowers; thin or cut back last year's growth in late winter/early spring.

■ Hydrangea quercifolia (oak-leaf hydrangea): Remove dead wood at the base of the plant in early spring.

■ Hydrangea anomala petiolaris (climbing hydrangea): Unruly vines can be shortened in summer. Otherwise, pruning is seldom necessary.

THE RIGHT TOOLS

The best pruning tool for the job depends on the size of the stems or branches to be cut:

■ Use hand pruners for stems up to one-half inch in diameter.

■ Use lopping shears for stems between one-half and one-inch in diameter.

■ Use a pruning saw for stems with a diameter of one inch or larger.

Life & Style

Marvel: Diverse MCU is 'the right way to be'

By JEN YAMATO
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Higher, further, faster ... and, finally, more diverse? Twenty-one films into its juggernaut franchise, Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige says, the company's recent wave of superhero titles led by global hits "Black Panther" and "Captain Marvel" is only the start of a more inclusive Marvel Cinematic Universe.

"There will be many more announcements to come," Feige told The Times ahead of the "Captain Marvel" release. "Put it this way: It's only the beginning."

Already making good on that promise as the female-fronted "Captain Marvel" crushed the box office in its worldwide debut, Marvel announced last week that Destin Daniel Cretton ("Short Term 12") will helm the studio's fast-tracked first Asian superhero installment, "Shang-Chi." (Casting details are still to come.)

The franchise's newfound dedication to inclusion, Feige said, owes much to the legacy of the late Stan Lee. The longtime Marvel creative, editor and publisher used his platform to pen his "Stan's Soapbox" column on a variety of subjects including social and racial injustice.

"Let's lay it right on the line," Lee began one oft-quoted 1968 column. "Bigotry and racism are among the deadliest social ills plaguing the world today." Feige expressed hope that fans will find a spirit kindred to Lee's social consciousness in the films Marvel is making.

"We're just the stewards, the current stewards, of these characters that he and his co-creators brought together _ and all of them were created in that spirit of those 'Soapboxes,'" Feige said. "That was very much what Stan's worldview was, and that's what these movies represent.

Brie Larson stars in "Captain Marvel." CHUCK ZLOTNICK /MARVEL STUDIOS/TNS

"Because that is _ how do I put this _ it's the right way to be. It is the way the world should be. And one of the great things about movies is you get to showcase the world that you want to reflect and the way you want the world to be. And that's what he did with these characters."

Lee died in November at the age of 95 but has remained a constant presence in the MCU and beyond, appearing posthumously in December's Oscar-winning animated Sony hit "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse."

A tribute celebrating Lee's signature Marvel appearances opens the credits lead-in to "Captain Marvel," in which a scene aboard a speeding train marks one of his final MCU cameos.

Led by Brie Larson, "Captain Marvel" has vanquished both the skeptics and the trolls, a feat to which Lee might have cheered, "Excelsior!" It is the first film in the MCU to be directed by a woman (Anna Boden, who shares directing duties with Ryan Fleck) and scored $455 million globally in its opening weekend, the sixth-biggest launch of all time.

The film powered past $700 million worldwide in its second weekend and is already a lock to crack the MCU's top 10 global hits; analysts predict it will reach $1 billion in theaters, which would make it only the seventh MCU title to mint 10 figures.

Last year, Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther" ushered in this new era of the MCU with many firsts: the first Marvel film to center on a black superhero, the first to feature a predominantly black cast, the first to be directed by an African American filmmaker. It made $1.3 billion globally and scored groundbreaking Oscar nominations for the studio, including best picture.

Feige described having similar first conversations with both Larson and Coogler, who wanted to know why Marvel wanted to make their films.

"The initial meetings that we had with [Larson] were not dissimilar to our initial meetings with Ryan Coogler," he laughed. "'Oh, wait a minute. They're interviewing us. We're not interviewing them.'"

Warner Bros.' chief Tsujihara steps down following scandal

NEW YORK (AP)—Warner Bros. chief Kevin Tsujihara, one of the highest ranking Hollywood executives to be felled by sexual misconduct allegations, stepped down from the studio Monday following claims that he promised roles to an actress with whom he was having an affair.

Tsujihara

WarnerMedia chief executive John Stankey announced Tsujihara's exit as chairman and chief executive of Warner Bros., saying his departure was in the studio's "best interest."

"Kevin has contributed greatly to the studio's success over the past 25 years and for that we thank him," said Stankey. "Kevin acknowledges that his mistakes are inconsistent with the company's leadership expectations and could impact the company's ability to execute going forward."

Earlier this month, WarnerMedia launched an investigation after a March 6 Hollywood Reporter story detailed text messages between Tsujihara and British actress Charlotte Kirk going back to 2013. The messages suggested a quid pro quo sexual relationship between the aspiring actress and the studio head in which he made promises that he'd introduce her to influential executives and she'd be considered for roles in movies and television.

In a memo to Warner Bros. staff on Monday, Tsujihara said he was departing "after lengthy introspection, and discussions with John Stankey over the past week."

"It has become clear that my continued leadership could be a distraction and an obstacle to the company's continued success," said Tsujihara. "The hard work of everyone within our organization is truly admirable, and I won't let media attention on my past detract from all the great work the team is doing."

Tsujihara's attorney, Bert H. Deixler, earlier stated that Tsujihara "had no direct role in the hiring of this actress." He declined further comment Monday.

Tsujihara, who has headed the Burbank, California, studio since 2013, earlier pledged to fully cooperate with the studio's investigation and apologized to Warner Bros. staff for "mistakes in my personal life that have caused pain and embarrassment to the people I love the most."

The scandal unfolded just as Warner Bros. was restructuring on the heels of AT&T's takeover of WarnerMedia, previously known as Time Warner. Tsujihara's role had just been expanded on Feb. 28 to include global kids and family entertainment including oversight of Adult Swim and the Cartoon Network.

Man linked to largest art heist in history freed from prison

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A reputed Connecticut mobster who federal authorities believe is the last surviving person of interest in the largest art heist in history criticized government officials Monday as he adjusted to being back home after finishing a four-year prison sentence for weapons crimes.

Robert Gentile, 82, also maintained he knows nothing about the unsolved theft of $500 million worth of art from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston in 1990. He was released from federal custody in the unrelated weapons case Friday.

"I had nothing to do with the paintings. It's a big joke," Gentile said in a phone interview from his Manchester home.

He also blamed federal prison officials for worsening health problems that have left him unable to get around except in a wheelchair, and he criticized law enforcement officials for seizing his money and damaging his home during a raid in the weapons case.

"I'm all crippled up. They had me in a bed for a year chained up," he said. "I should have never been in jail. It's a joke."

The federal Bureau of Prisons said in a statement that there was no evidence to support Gentile's claims of mistreatment. It said it cannot discuss inmates' medical conditions.

In this Sept. 5, 2017 file photo, Robert Gentile is wheeled into the federal courthouse in Hartford, Conn. AP

An FBI spokesman in New Haven declined to comment.

The art heist took place March 18, 1990, when two men masquerading as Boston police officers got into the museum by telling a security guard they were responding to a report of a disturbance, according to authorities. The guard and a co-worker were handcuffed and locked in the basement while the thieves made off with the art.

The missing pieces include Rembrandt's only known seascape, "Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee," and Vermeer's "The Concert," one of fewer than 40 known paintings by the 17th-century Dutch painter.

The FBI told The Associated Press in 2015 that two suspects—both Boston criminals with ties to organized crime—were deceased.

Investigators believe the paintings moved through mob circles to Connecticut and Philadelphia, where the trail went cold, officials have said.

Prosecutors have said another gangster's widow claimed her husband gave Gentile two of the paintings. Authorities also have said that Gentile talked about the stolen paintings with fellow prisoners and once told an undercover FBI agent he had access to two of the paintings and could negotiate the sale of each for $500,000.

But Gentile, who will be on federally supervised release for the next three years, has publicly insisted he knows nothing about the theft or where the paintings are.

Federal agents have searched Gentile's home three times, including with ground-penetrating radar, in what Gentile's lawyer, A. Ryan McGuigan, believes were efforts to find the paintings and other evidence about the heist. The weapons charges were filed after authorities found several firearms at Gentile's home in 2016, which he was prohibited from possessing as a previously convicted felon.

Gentile was sentenced to more than two years in prison in 2013 for illegally selling prescription drugs and possessing guns, silencers and ammunition. In that case, prosecutors said federal agents found in Gentile's home a handwritten list of the stolen paintings and their estimated worth, along with a newspaper article about the museum heist a day after it happened.

Facebook says service hindered by lack of local news

By DAVID BAUDER
AP MEDIA WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook's effort to establish a service that provides its users with local news and information is being hindered by the lack of outlets where the company's technicians can find original reporting.

The service, launched last year, is currently available in some 400 cities in the United States. But the social media giant said it has found that 40 percent of Americans live in places where there weren't enough local news stories to support it.

Facebook announced Monday it would share its research with academics at Duke, Harvard, Minnesota and North Carolina who are studying the extent of news deserts created by newspaper closures and staff downsizing .

Some 1,800 newspapers have closed in the United States over the last 15 years, according to the University of North Carolina. Newsroom employment has declined by 45 percent as the industry struggles with a broken business model partly caused by the success of companies on the Internet, including Facebook.

The Facebook service, called "Today In ," collects news stories from various local outlets, along with government and community groups. The company deems a community unsuitable for "Today In" if it cannot find a single day in a month with at least five news items available to share.

There's not a wide geographical disparity. For example, the percentage of news deserts is higher in the Northeast and Midwest, at 43 percent, Facebook said. In the South and West, the figure is 38 percent.

"It affirms the fact that we have a real lack of original local reporting," said Penelope Muse Abernathy, a University of North Carolina professor who studies the topic. She said she hopes the data helps pinpoint areas where the need is greatest, eventually leading to some ideas for solutions.

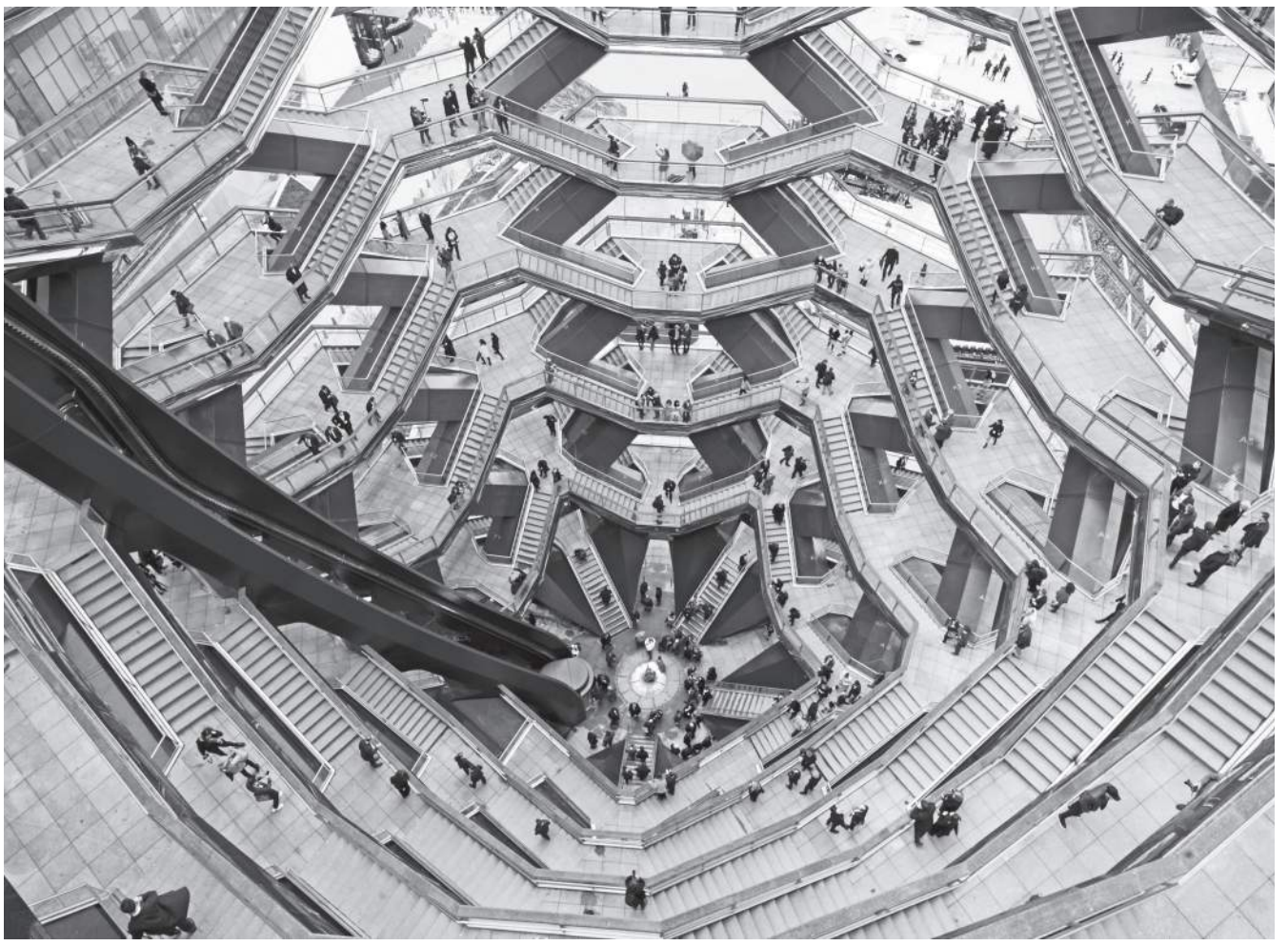
Facebook doesn't necessarily have the answers. "Everyone can learn from working together," said Anne Kornblut, director of news initiatives at the company.

The company plans to award some 100 grants, ranging from $5,000 to $25,000, to people with ideas for making more news available, said Josh Mabry, head of local news partnerships for Facebook.

That comes on top of $300 million in grants Facebook announced in January to help programs and partnerships designed to boost local news.

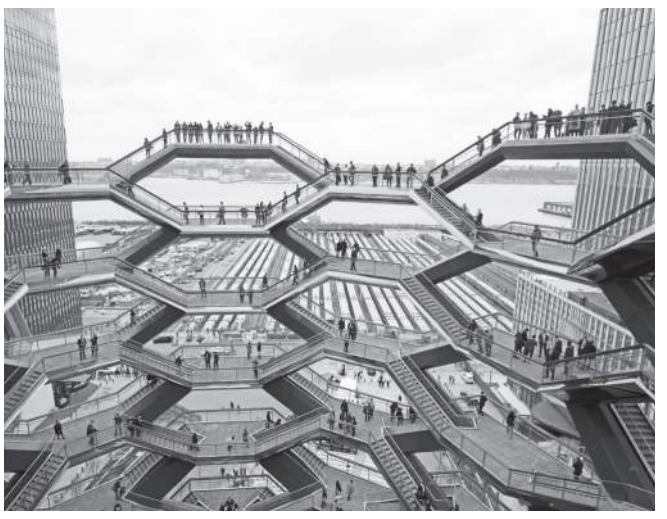
The company doesn't plan to launch newsgathering efforts of its own, Kornblut said.

"Our history has been—and we will probably stick to it—to let journalists do what they do well and let us support them and let them do their work," she said.



New York's $25 billion Hudson Yards development opens

By VERENA DOBNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Visitors to "Vessel" climb its staircases on its opening day at Hudson Yards, Friday, March 15, 2019, in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—New York's $25 billion Hudson Yards development is open to the public, offering both basic daily life amenities and luxuries that have earned it the nickname "Manhattan's mini-city."

People lined up Friday to climb the 2,500 steps to the top of a massive, honeycomb-shaped sculpture called Vessel—the visual centerpiece of a complex of high-rises on Manhattan's West Side with pricey commercial and residential space, plus about 100 shops and restaurants.

CNN's Anderson Cooper hosted the inaugural ceremony, joined by singer Andra Day, Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer and a lineup of New York business luminaries.

CNN will be a tenant at Hudson Yards along with its parent company, WarnerMedia. Other well-known corporate tenants include the BlackRock money manager, L'Oreal USA, Equinox and Coach.

Hudson Yards bills itself "the cultural center of Manhattan's New West Side," and on its first day, the culture came in the form of familiar brands at the five-floor retail mall—from Dior, Fendi and Neiman Marcus to Uniqlo, Banana Republic and H&M. New employees being trained inside the shops got last-minute tips before customers arrived at noon. A hungry crowd packed the affordable Shake Shack, with a line winding out the door.

The powerhouse figure at the opening was developer Stephen Ross, the CEO of Related Cos. that partnered with Oxford Properties Group to build Hudson Yards, where the price of apartments ranges from about $3 million to $32 million.

"Today, we created a dynamic hub of creativity and innovation," Ross told a standing-room only crowd of hundreds gathered under Vessel. "Today, once again, we showed that New York will always be the greatest city in the world."

Another prominent guest was Gary LaBarbera, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York that finally last week settled its bitter labor dispute with Related over use of union and non-union workers; the two sides are now collaborating.

Only half of the 28-acre community by the Hudson River is completed, including the highest observation deck in the Western Hemisphere atop a 100-story building, and The Shed, a 200,000-square-foot art center with a telescoping outer shell.

The rest of Hudson Yards is to be constructed by 2025.

La Scala returns $3.4 million to Saudi Arabia in debacle

MILAN (AP)—Italy's famed La Scala opera house will immediately return 3 million euros ($3.4 million) sent to an escrow account by Saudi Arabia in what Milan's mayor on Monday termed a badly handled fundraising deal. But he did not rule out future dealings with the kingdom despite concerns raised over its human rights record.

Milan Mayor Giuseppe Sala told reporters that La Scala's board decided to return the money deposited earlier this year by the Saudi culture minister without a proper indication of its purpose and before the board had been formally notified of fundraising discussions with Saudi officials by La Scala's general manager.

While the current procedure aimed at making Saudi Arabia an official financial backer of the opera house was officially closed, Sala refused to rule out future talks with the kingdom. He said a planned tour by La Scala's orchestra in 2020 will go ahead as planned.

"We are not closing doors to Saudi Arabia," Sala said. "It depends on the form of cooperation. We will do the tour. I wouldn't make a list of countries where it doesn't make sense to go, also because this kind of activity can help in respect to the situation that exists today in Saudi Arabia."

The fundraising deal, for example, foresaw the establishment of a music school run by La Scala's academy that would be open to all Saudi children regardless of gender.

While announcing the return of the money, the mayor noted that the Italian government and financial institutions continued to have dealings with Saudi Arabia.

Italy is Saudi Arabia's ninth-largest trading partner, according to the Saudi embassy website. While Italy's premier Giuseppe Conte said at his year-end news conference that Italy planned to suspend arm's sales, no action has been taken yet.

The opera house deal, which would have given a seat on the La Scala board to Saudi Arabia's culture minister, was hotly contested in light of Saudi Arabia's human rights record. The kingdom is under increased scrutiny internationally since the killing of a Saudi journalist inside its consulate in Istanbul last October and the plight of a Saudi woman who turned to social media to help escape alleged family abuse.

Other Western cultural institutes have also grappled with how to handle financial contributions from Saudi Arabia following the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. Saudi Arabia, which has been making moves to open culturally to the West, participated for the first time in last year's Biennale architecture exhibit in Venice.

As part of the arrangement agreed, Saudi Arabia would have contributed 15 million euros to La Scala over the coming years and in return would have become a so-called "founding member." of the foundation and taken a seat on the board.

Sala said the talks with Saudi Arabia, which included discussions ahead of the gala Dec. 7 season-opener, were poorly handled in terms of communication. He said he had been aware of the talks, but not of their speedy advancement nor of the transfer of funds.

But he said that general manager and artistic director Alexander Pereira had acted in good faith while showing some naivete in dealing with Italian politicians.

"In all these years in Italy, he should understand the mechanisms," he said. "If you think that one day a politicians tells you one thing and then the next day he says the same thing, you are dreaming."

John Oliver slams Jay Leno on 'civility' comments

John Oliver had a few words about civility for Jay Leno during Sunday's episode of "Last Week Tonight," which had a public-shaming theme.

Oliver criticized the former "Tonight Show" host about his relentless Monica Lewinsky jokes back in the '90s and his lack of public regret over those quips.

The HBO host's comments came after Leno criticized late-night TV on the "Today" show and said he'd "like to see a bit of civility come back."

In response, Oliver presented viewers with clips from Leno's old show in which the host unceasingly jests about Lewinsky and her sexual encounters with former President Clinton.

"You know, like that time [Leno] did a fake book about Lewinsky" that called her promiscuous, Oliver said. "And if that's what he means by civility, may I offer my new book," he said, tagging an expletive at the end of the title of the Dr. Seuss book "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

"Those jokes have not dated well in any sense of the word," Oliver said, adding: "Given all of that, it's frankly a miracle that Lewinsky seems to have emerged with her sense of humor intact."

He pointed to a tweet from last year in which a social media user claimed not to know who Lewinsky was, to which she replied: "i'm the chick from over 125 rap songs ... " ***(Los Angeles Times)***

NY library opens archive that's dedicated to rocker Lou Reed

Reed

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Public Library has opened an archive dedicated to pioneering alternative rock musician Lou Reed.

The library acquired the archive after performance artist and musician Laurie Anderson, who was married to Reed, decided to share it with an institution that could preserve and showcase the archive. The New York Times reports the archive includes a large collection of personal notes, photographs and more than 600 hours of recordings.

Anderson says Reed never discussed what to do with his belongings before his death in 2013. She says she thought the archive should be accessible to young musicians and anyone interested in his life.

Reed was the lead vocalist, guitarist and songwriter for The Velvet Underground, and had a solo career that spanned decades after leaving the band.

Reality TV star 'Mama June' Shannon arrested in Alabama

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP)— Reality television star June "Mama June" Shannon has been arrested on drug charges in Alabama.

News outlets report that Shannon and a friend, Eugene Doak, were arrested March 13 at a gas station in Macon County where he was heard threatening her.

The reports say that in the course of the investigation authorities found drugs and drug paraphernalia.

Al.com says the criminal complaint states the two had crack cocaine and a crack pipe.

Both are charged with felony drug possession and misdemeanor unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

The 39-year-old Shannon is the mother of Alana "Honey Boo Boo" Thompson, who starred in a reality TV show on TLC. Shannon later starred in her own show documenting her weight loss.

The reports did not say whether she had a lawyer.

Pirro's show not on Fox lineup, week after Omar comments

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News weekend host Jeanine Pirro's show didn't air a week after her comments questioning U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar over her wearing a Muslim head covering. No explanation was given.

Pirro's show, "Justice With Judge Jeanine," was replaced Saturday night by other programming. The Fox News schedule for the upcoming weekend doesn't include the show.

Fox said Sunday that it would not comment on internal scheduling matters.

President Donald Trump tweeted Sunday morning about Pirro's absence, saying she should be brought back.

Pirro

"Stop working soooo hard on being politically correct, which will only bring you down, and continue to fight for our Country. The losers all want what you have, don't give it to them," one of his tweets said.

Pirro hasn't tweeted herself since March 10, a day after her comments about Omar aired. That's an unusually long absence from the platform for Pirro, who is a frequent tweeter.

Fox News had "strongly condemned" Pirro's commentary on Omar, the first-term representative from Minnesota. Pirro had questioned whether Omar's wearing of a hijab was "indicative of her adherence to Sharia law, which is in itself antithetical to the U.S. Constitution?"

Fox said Pirro's views didn't reflect the network and it had addressed the issue with her, but didn't specify what that entailed.

Omar, in a tweet, thanked Fox for the statement, saying no one should question a person's commitment to the Constitution because of a person's faith or country of origin. Omar is a Somali immigrant.

Pirro said her intention had been to start a debate, but that being Muslim didn't mean someone didn't support the Constitution. She invited Omar to her show.

Pirro is the former district attorney from New York's Westchester County.

Country star Kane Brown countersues producer over contract

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— Country star Kane Brown and Atlanta-based producer Polow Da Don are embroiled in a contract dispute that has both sides claiming they are owed money.

The Grammy-nominated producer, whose real name is Jamal Jones, sued Brown in February claiming breach of contract, saying he has not been paid under the terms of a 2015 agreement and asked for damages in excess of $75,000.

Brown's attorneys responded on Monday with a countersuit, claiming the producer has made millions off Brown's success based on a fraudulent contract and misled him about their agreement. Brown is seeking unspecified damages.

An attorney for Jones did not immediately return an after-hours message seeking comment on Monday.

Brown

Brown is one of country music's rising stars, with multiple No. 1 hits including "Heaven" and "What Ifs," and was the first artist to simultaneously chart atop all five Billboard country charts. His self-titled debut on Sony Music Nashville in 2016 was certified platinum and his sophomore effort, "Experiment," debuted at No. 1 on both the pop and country charts last year.

Jones has worked with Usher, The Pussycat Dolls, Nicki Minaj and more and filed the lawsuit under his company Zone 4. Jones' lawsuit claims that he was using his connections in the music business to help develop Brown as a new artist, but Brown said Jones never recorded any of his songs, even though he is still credited as an executive producer on Brown's songs.

Brown said that Jones did not disclose that Zone 4 had an exclusive talent finding agreement with the Sony music label company that allowed Sony to preclude Zone 4 artists from shopping their music to other labels. Brown said that although other Nashville labels expressed interest in signing him, Sony sent cease and desist letters to them.

"This severely limited Mr. Brown's career choices and deprived him of considerable negotiating leverage," Brown's lawsuit claimes said.

Jones' lawsuit said the producer had no idea Brown was in negotiations to sign a record deal with Sony and said Zone 4 still owned the rights to Brown's recording services. Jones claimed that Brown and his team stopped communicating with Zone 4 and were "attempting to sever the ties with the people responsible for building his career."

Alcohol is a monster at night with no memory in the morning

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for four years, and before that, I knew him for about a year. At the time, he was very loving and considerate, but right after we got married, his true nature emerged.

He drinks heavily every night and says horrible things. In the morning, he has no recollection of it and expects me to be loving and warm to him. I can't bring myself to do it. He is always accusing me of cheating on him, even though I have given him no reason. He has a GPS on my phone, and if I don't answer his texts or calls immediately, he goes ballistic.

Abby, I'm not happy and have often thought about running away. During the day he helps me, but at night he becomes a completely different person. I have a full-time job and pay 85 percent of the bills. I take care of the kids, cook and clean, but nothing makes him happy. I would really appreciate your advice.

LOST IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LOST: Nothing you do WILL make your husband happy. You are married to an abusive blackout drunk. Demand that he enter an abuse treatment program. If he refuses, then leave now, before the example he sets when he has been drinking further damages your children. If you need information about forming an escape plan, go online to the National Domestic Violence Hotline website (thehotline.org). There is also a toll-free 24-hour hotline: 1-800-799-7233.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for almost a year. We don't live together, but we're together three or four times a week, and the sex is great.

He is into porn, and when I am not there, I know he looks at it because I have found pictures of it on his phone. It makes me feel like I'm not enough because if I was, he wouldn't need to look at other girls for arousal. When I tell him that, he says there's no emotional attachment to porn for him. He says it is all visual and there is nothing to be jealous of.

I myself am not into it. It grosses me out to even look at it. Is he telling me the truth?

GROSSED OUT IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR GROSSED OUT: If your boyfriend does not require looking at his cellphone in order to have sex with you, then he is telling you the truth. Men are turned on by the visual. Women are more turned on by the written word. The expert who pointed that out to me was Larry Flynt. After I printed it, I was criticized by some readers for using him as a resource. Three months later, the book "Fifty Shades of Grey" appeared and became a worldwide phenomenon. So Larry was right—in SPADES.

DEAR ABBY: I'm hoping you will settle a bet between me and a good friend. I'm sure you've heard of or seen the advertisements for ancestral DNA testing. I say that three children with the same two parents will all have equal percentages of their parents' ancestry. My friend says the amounts can vary from child to child. Who is right? A nice dinner is riding on this.

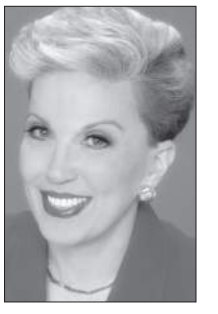
HUNGRY TO KNOW IN MINNESOTA

DEAR HUNGRY: I am sure your friend will enjoy the nice dinner you're paying for. According to Ancestry.com, unless the siblings are identical triplets, the amount of DNA they receive from each parent can vary, and it is not unusual for siblings to have different percentages of their parents' ancestry.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

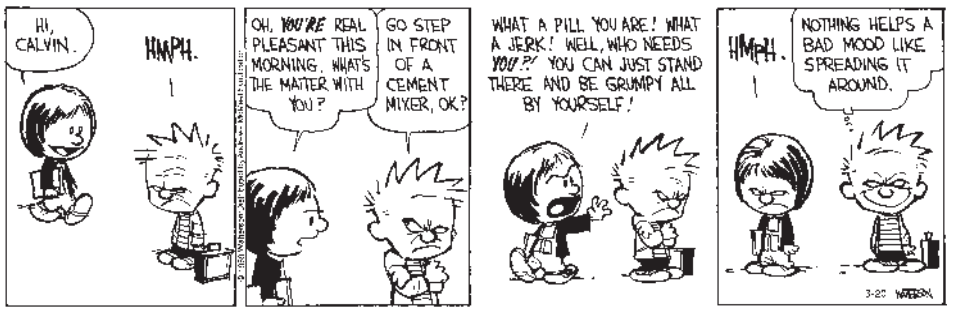


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

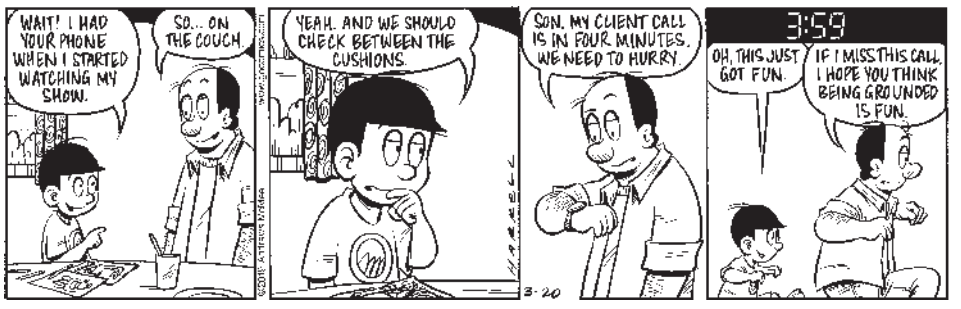

HI, CALVIN.
HMPH.
OH, YOU'RE REAL PLEASANT THIS MORNING. WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
GO STEP IN FRONT OF A CEMENT MIXER, OK?
WHAT A PILL YOU ARE! WHAT A JERK! WELL, WHO NEEDS YOU?! YOU CAN JUST STAND THERE AND BE GRUMPY ALL BY YOURSELF!
HMPH.
NOTHING HELPS A BAD MOOD LIKE SPREADING IT AROUND.
3-20 WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WAIT! I HAD YOUR PHONE WHEN I STARTED WATCHING MY SHOW.
SO... ON THE COUCH.
YEAH. AND WE SHOULD CHECK BETWEEN THE CUSHIONS.
SON. MY CLIENT CALL IS IN FOUR MINUTES. WE NEED TO HURRY.
3:59
OH, THIS JUST GOT FUN.
IF I MISS THIS CALL, I HOPE YOU THINK BEING GROUNDED IS FUN.
3-20

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CONFUCIUS SAID...
..."IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW SLOWLY YOU GO AS LONG AS YOU DO NOT STOP."
CONFUCIUS NEVER WAITED IN LINE FOR A BATHROOM STALL AT A BASEBALL STADIUM.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Facts and figures
5 Bygone jet
8 Son of Seth
12 Latin love
13 Historic period
14 "Peter Pan" pooch
15 "No problem!"
17 Darkens
18 Skip
19 "Delicious" crop
21 Three, in Rome
22 Hold sway
23 Zsa Zsa's sister
26 Stitch
28 Justice Ruth — Ginsburg
31 Missing
33 Pouch
35 Shrill barks
36 Toy (with)
38 Prattle
40 Make lace
41 Beer, slangily
43 Capote nickname
45 Black Sea port
47 Indigenous
51 Accomplishes
52 "Yes?"
54 Garfield's pal
55 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
56 Actress Turner
57 Breaks down
58 Coifs
59 Stretches (out)

DOWN

1 Calendar squares
2 Mine, in Montreal
3 Talk up
4 Lingo
5 Small sofas
6 Lanka lead-in
7 Early Mongolian
8 Bridge tactic
9 Aced a test
10 "My treat"
11 Lip
16 Partially mine
20 Tavern
23 Sprite
24 Book-spine abbr.
25 "In my view ..."
27 Witty one
29 Clean air org.
30 Trio after Q
32 Bridge supports
34 Short snoozes
37 Super Bowl stats
39 Unruly kid
42 Cut lumber
44 Of service
45 Scent
46 Nitwit
48 Author Dinesen
49 Tarzan's commuter line?
50 LAX guesses
53 Med. plan

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	L	P	S	■	O	N	A	■	S	E	G	O
M	O	O	T	■	F	E	C	■	A	G	U	I
R	A	N	D	S	A	W	S	■	N	J	I	I
I	D	F	■	A	R	S	■	F	D	I	F	Y
■	■	■	I	G	T	■	G	A	S	■	■	■
D	I	V	A	S	■	O	U	R	T	C	W	N
A	S	I	N	■	H	U	T	■	O	W	E	N
B	R	I	D	G	E	T	■	C	R	E	■	E
■	■	■	T	A	N	■	K	■	M	■	■	■
S	A	V	O	Y	■	M	A	O	■	C	A	T
K	N	E	W	■	L	A	N	D	M	A	R	K
E	D	I	C	■	A	N	Y	■	B	R	A	T
W	I	L	L	■	W	Y	E	■	A	L	B	S

Yesterday's answer 3-20

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18						■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22				■	■
23	24	25	■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44	■	■	■
45	46					■	47			48	49	50
51				■	52	53						
54					55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ruby Rose, 33; Holly Hunter, 61; Spike Lee, 62; William Hurt, 69.

Happy Birthday: Take relationships seriously, and do your part to help keep the momentum flowing. Working with others to accomplish something important will lead to opportunities. Don't share personal information. Offer only what will help you get ahead. Keep your opinions to yourself to avoid opposition and setbacks. Channel your energy into situations and projects that will bring the highest returns. Your numbers are 3, 16, 23, 29, 32, 36, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take time to assess your situation before making your next move. Consider who is sincere and who is asking for too much. Using your time wisely will help you avoid getting worn out. If someone chooses to argue with you, take a pass. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Dedication and drive will help you get your point across. Don't jeopardize your physical, emotional or financial well-being or let anyone take advantage of you. Charity begins at home, and investing in yourself is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* An emotional situation will escalate if you or someone else makes assumptions or isn't truthful. Joint ventures should be avoided or monitored carefully. Stick to people you trust and activities you enjoy. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make adjustments at home or at work that will encourage you to spend less and earn more. A partnership, gift or investment you make will encourage better cash flow. Home improvements are featured. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Getting out more doesn't have to be costly, but it should encourage you to make changes that will improve the way you live and how well you take care of your health. Don't get involved in something outlandish or excessive. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Do your best to relate to friends, relatives and youngsters. You will be offered all sorts of interesting thoughts that can help you bring about positive change. The insight given regarding a personal relationship will help you move forward. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Do what's best for yourself. Taking care of your health, protecting your financial position and discovering new ways to use your skills and experience will help you see things differently and encourage you to strive to be and do your best. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Address problems by opening a dialogue that will help you understand how those around you relate to your plans. It's OK to be different, and anyone who interferes should be questioned regarding his or her motives. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take better care of yourself emotionally and physically. If someone prompts you to do things you shouldn't, be strong and walk away. Don't believe everything you hear, especially if it involves someone who isn't present to defend himself or herself. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Change is overdue. Consider what you want to see unravel in order to make it happen. Don't wait around for someone else to take over. A money opportunity looks interesting, but don't go into debt or take a gamble. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Offer to help others, but refuse to take on the brunt of the work or cost involved. Be clear about what you will do and what you expect in return. Keep the peace, but live within your means and by the rules. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Participate in events or organizations or volunteer for something you believe in. You will connect with someone who will brighten your day. A change in attitude will encourage others to support your efforts as well as pitch in. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, helpful and caring. You are ambitious and intense.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3	5	1		
			9					
	3	9	4		5	8	2	
9	1			5			6	3
6								8
5								4
3								1
	9						8	
		7	3	6	2	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	5	4	1	9	7	3	2	8
3	2	7	6	5	8	9	4	1
8	1	9	4	2	3	5	7	6
1	8	3	9	6	2	7	5	4
9	4	6	7	3	5	8	1	2
2	7	5	8	1	4	6	9	3
5	6	2	3	7	1	4	8	9
4	3	1	5	8	9	2	6	7
7	9	8	2	4	6	1	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PREGNANCY Solution: 10 letters

S	S	S	E	N	K	C	I	S	S	E	G	A	M	I
N	R	H	S	K	E	E	W	D	U	E	M	A	N	F
I	E	O	U	H	T	E	N	I	N	G	G	O	A	L
W	T	W	T	S	T	E	D	I	U	G	I	M	A	B
T	A	E	E	C	I	U	U	L	S	T	I	R	D	O
S	W	R	F	R	O	V	O	N	A	L	U	E	L	Y
R	U	E	F	I	W	D	I	M	Y	D	L	Y	I	S
E	T	R	L	A	B	O	R	T	I	G	R	E	H	T
T	N	A	E	B	M	O	W	P	A	S	B	S	C	N
S	U	A	O	T	F	S	E	N	O	M	R	O	H	E
E	R	S	U	S	U	P	P	O	R	T	I	M	E	R
M	S	M	N	S	E	O	Y	R	B	M	E	N	U	A
I	E	A	R	G	E	T	B	Y	P	E	E	L	S	P
R	R	N	D	E	I	A	A	T	N	E	C	A	L	P
T	Y	T	E	S	T	S	B	D	E	V	E	L	O	P

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Baby, Boys, Cells, Child, Dates, Develop, Doctors, Due, Embryo, Epidural, Eyes, Family, Fetus, Friends, Girls, Goal, Guide, Hormones, Images, Labor, Midwife, Mouth, Name, Nausea, Nine, Nursery, OBGYN, Parents, Placenta, Rest, Shower, Sickness, Signs, Sleepy, Support, Term, Tests, Time, Transformation, Trimester, Twins, Uterus, Vitamins, Water, Weeks, Womb

Yesterday's Answer: Migraines

Treasuries 13 through 34 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including holidays, weekends and night time schedules.

Applicants of all positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.
We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
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Find today's solution in classified section

Giants defend Beckham trade, Eli salary

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) —After a week of being beaten up in the media over the trade of popular star receiver Odell Beckham Jr., general manager Dave Gettleman went on the offensive, saying the trade was in the best interests of the New York Giants and was a deal the organization could not refuse.

Gettleman didn't stop there Monday, speaking for the first time since sending Beckham to the Cleveland Browns last week in return for first- and third-round draft picks this year and safety Jabrill Peppers.

The executive also defended quarterback Eli Manning, saying the belief the 38-year-old two-time Super Bowl MVP can't play well anymore is a "crock." He laughed off the idea that the trade for 29-year-old guard Kevin Zeitler and the free agent signing of 34-year-old safety Antoine Bethea gave the Giants a couple of old players, saying both are good players and good people.

When pushed about what is his plan for the Giants after winning three games in 2017 and five last season, Gettleman basically told reporters it was none of their business. He said the team is building, it has a master plan that would become apparent over time, and he would be judged by how it worked out over the next few years.

In discussing Beckham, Gettleman said he only approached the Bills about a deal for the 26-year-old wideout—partly because he heard Buffalo might be getting receiver Antonio Brown from Pittsburgh, and the other part was his friendship with Bills general manager Brandon Beane, who worked for him in Carolina.

AP

In this Aug. 22, 2015 file photo, New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) and Odell Beckham (13) talk while walking off the field after the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars in East Rutherford, N.J.

Gettleman did not shop the three-time Pro Bowler because he felt doing that would not give him the upper hand in trade talks. He said the San Francisco 49ers called and the teams had numerous conversations without reaching a deal.

Once Browns general manager John Dorsey called on Tuesday, it took 10 hours to work out the deal. It was finalized over the weekend when Beckham and Peppers passed physicals, Gettleman said.

The obvious question is why get rid of the guy who has been the record-setting catalyst of the Giants' offense since being the No. 12 pick overall in 2014 and the Offensive Rookie of the Year that season.

"That's the question everybody asks," Gettleman said. "After much discussion we believe this was in the best interests of the New York Football Giants. I want everyone to know this was purely a football business decision. There is no intrigue. No he said, she said. None of that stuff."

Gettleman called Beckham a tremendous talent, but said the Giants got three assets in return, at the very least.

After the past season, New York did not franchise-tag leading tackler Landon Collins —Gettleman said teams called at the trading deadline last year to ask about acquiring Collins, but no one offered enough; traded sacks leader Olivier Vernon to Cleveland for Zeitler; made the Beckham deal; and stuck with Manning, who got a $5 million roster bonus this week.

"This narrative that Eli is overpaid and can't play is a crock, I'm telling you," Gettleman said, adding he doesn't mind if people disagree with him.

Gettleman said it was not his responsibility to discuss the Giants' plan for the future.

"Trust me, we have a plan," he said. "Over time, you have to be patient. Everybody wants the answers now. It's an instant gratification society. ... Over time, you will see it. You have to trust it."

Bortles to Rams

Meanwhile, Blake Bortles has a new home.

The former Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback has agreed to a one-year deal with the Los Angeles Rams, the team announced Monday night. Terms of the deal were not immediately disclosed.

Bortles projects as the NFC champions' backup for starter Jared Goff.

The 26-year-old Bortles, who was the No. 3 overall pick in the 2014 NFL draft, arrives in L.A. after washing out in Jacksonville. The Jaguars released Bortles last week after the acquisition of Super Bowl LII MVP Nick Foles.

Bortles had signed a three-year, $54 million deal with the Jaguars following the team's run to the AFC Championship Game in the 2017 postseason. But he regressed in 2018, throwing just 13 touchdowns to 11 interceptions while going 3-9 as a starter.

Bortles ended his Jaguars career with a 24-49 record with 103 touchdowns to 75 interceptions.

Still, his 75 games of NFL experience are significantly more than Brandon Allen, the only other non-Goff quarterback currently on the Rams roster, who hasn't actually thrown an NFL pass. In that sense, the move solidifies the Rams' quarterback situation behind Goff.

Opening day intrigue: Ichiro keeps 'em guessing about future

TOKYO (AP)—This is the Ichiro effect.

Richard Snitzer had never been to Japan. What finally drove the Japanese-American to travel here from his home in Hayward, California, was Ichiro Suzuki; not family ties, not pure wanderlust, but a chance to see a player he called "simply the best."

And get this. He's not even a Mariners fan, which he's advertised by wearing his A's jersey around the Tokyo Dome.

He'll be there Wednesday when Major League Baseball opens the 2019 season with Seattle facing Oakland to start a two-game series. The 45-year-old Ichiro is expected to play in both. What happens next? Ichiro isn't saying.

One thing is sure. It will be great theater.

"I'll have my phone ready to go, and I'll shoot and stand up and applaud when he bats," Snitzer said. "I just hope he doesn't get the winning hit against the A's. If he hits a home run that doesn't affect the game, I'll be thrilled."

A's pitcher Liam Hendriks probably spoke for both teams.

"We're just happy to be along for the ride," he said. "I can't wait for the opening series when they announce Ichiro and hear that crowd."

Chances are, most baseball fans in other places will be asleep when A's right-hander Mike Fiers throws the first pitch of the year—around 5:30 a.m. EDT.

That's OK, there will be plenty of time for everyone to catch up before the other 28 teams open on March 28 at Yankee Stadium, Dodger Stadium and points in-between. Plenty to see, too, in a season that will stretch to end of October — Bryce Harper now batting in Philly, the Boston Red Sox trying to repeat as World Series champions and more talk about changing how the game is played.

In the meantime, Ichiro slipped into Tokyo's Haneda airport on Friday under the cover of a gray and black cap pulled way down. He's been highly visible since then; at a rare news conference, showing off in practice with trick catches in right field, and signing autographs to fans lining the foul lines before exhibition games against the Tokyo Giants.

Almost the only shirts for sale in the Tokyo Dome are Ichiro models. And they're not cheap: between $35-45 for a T-shirt, $62 for a sweat shirt, and a baseball with No. 51 goes for $30.

"Yes, we are selling well because Ichiro is a man of effort," said Yu Takamiya, a vendor answering questions through his translator app.

Ichiro told reporters on Saturday that—based on spring training—he's lucky to be here. He hit .080 in Arizona, and he hasn't played a regular-season game in a year. He was 0 for 6 in two exhibition games against the Tokyo Giants. They don't count officially. But if they did, he's hitting .065.

"This is a great gift for me," he said a day after arriving. "I will treasure every moment here on the field. One week after this event, I will be reflecting back on these days."

A's manager Bob Melvin knows Ichiro well from managing the Mariners 15 years ago.

"There are certain guys that create that kind of buzz," Melvin said. "He's used to it, but it's going to be a long few days for him. Once he gets on the field, that's when you just do your thing and insulate."

Melvin recalled Ichiro's relentless training. It hasn't changed. Ichiro was alone running across the outfield in several practices in Tokyo.

"As far as playing and preparing, there was nobody better," Melvin said.

A's outfielder Stephen Piscotty, making his first visit to Japan, called Ichiro "a master."

Meanwhile, roster reshuffling is another key part of the upcoming season.

Bryce Harper was the biggest name to change places since last season, leaving the Nationals and signing a record $330 million, 13-year contract with Philadelphia. The Phillies were especially busy, adding J.T. Realmuto, Jean Segura, Andrew McCutchen and David Robertson. Also on the move were Manny Machado (Padres), Paul Goldschmidt (Cardinals), Robinson Cano and Edwin Diaz (Mets), Nelson Cruz (Twins), Patrick Corbin (Nationals) and Josh Donaldson (Braves).

But another slow market for many free agents meant All-Star closer Craig Kimbrel and former Cy Young winner Dallas Keuchel didn't have jobs on the brink of a new season.

Nuggets clinch playoff spot with win over Celtics

BOSTON (AP)— Nikola Jokic had 21 points and 13 rebounds and the Denver Nuggets rallied in the fourth quarter to beat the Boston Celtics , 114-105, on Monday night.

Will Barton added 20 points for the Nuggets, who clinched a playoff spot for the first time since 2012-13. They have won four straight.

Kyrie Irving led the Celtics with 30 points. Al Horford finished with 20 points, six rebounds and six assists.

Both teams came into the night trying to improve their playoff position.

The Nuggets tipped off their four-game road trip just a game behind Western Conference-leading Golden State in the standings.

Spurs 111, Warriors 105

In San Antonio, DeMar DeRozan had 26 points and nine rebounds, LaMarcus Aldridge added 23 points and 13 rebounds and the Spurs beat Golden State for their ninth straight win.

San Antonio won its 11th straight at home and moved into fifth in the Western Conference at 42-29 following Oklahoma City's loss to Miami.

Stephen Curry had 25 points after a slow start and Kevin Durant added 24 for Golden State, which entered the game having won two straight.

Pelicans 129, Mavericks 125, OT

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki passed Wilt Chamberlain for sixth place on the NBA's career scoring list, but Elfrid Payton had his fifth straight triple-double to help New Orleans beat the Mavericks.

Payton finished with 19 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds. Dallas rookie Luka Doncic had a triple-double of his own with 29 points, 13 boards and 10 assists.

Julius Randle scored 11 of his 30 points in the final 3:29 of regulation, helping the Pelicans rally to force overtime.

Nowitzki moved past Chamberlain (31,419 points) on one of his signature long-range jumpers with 8:35 remaining in the first quarter.

Trail Blazers 106, Pacers 98

In Portland, Damian Lillard had 30 points and 15 assists as the Trail Blazers beat Indiana without starting guard CJ McCollum.

Jusuf Nurkic added 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Blazers, who led by as many as 21. Portland has won four of five and is holding onto fourth place in the Western Conference.

Jazz 116, Wizards 95

In Washington, Rudy Gobert had 14 points and 14 rebounds, Donovan Mitchell scored 19 and Utah won its fourth straight by beating the Wizards.

Gobert, the reigning Western Conference Player of the Week, was perfect from the field (6 of 6) for Utah, which started the night seventh in the West, one-half game behind San Antonio.

AP

Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) drives to the basket against Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart (36) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Monday, March 18, 2019.

Heat 116, Thunder 107

In Oklahoma City, Goran Dragic had 26 points and 11 assists, Dwyane Wade added 25 points and Miami took advantage of Russell Westbrook's absence to beat the Thunder.

Kelly Olynyk added 18 points and nine rebounds for Miami, which entered the game in eighth place in the Eastern Conference. The Heat snapped a six-game losing streak against Oklahoma City.

Raptors 128, Knicks 92

In Toronto, Jeremy Lin scored 20 points, Fred VanVleet had 13 points and 12 assists, and the Raptors beat New York.

The victory came at a cost to the Raptors, who saw guard Kyle Lowry leave in the third quarter after suffering an injured right ankle. Lowry, who had 15 points and eight assists in 26 minutes, was back in the lineup after missing the previous two games because of a sore left ankle.

Cavaliers 126, Pistons 119

In Cleveland, Collin Sexton scored 27 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with just under two minutes to play, and the Cavaliers defeated Detroit.

Both teams were missing star players. Blake Griffin (rest) sat out for Detroit, while Kevin Love was out with a sore back for Cleveland after taking a hard fall in Saturday's loss to Dallas.

Bulls 116, Suns 101

In Phoenix, Robin Lopez scored 24 points to help Chicago beat the Suns and snap a five-game losing streak.

Zach LaVine had 17 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, and Lauri Markkanen added 17 points and nine boards for Chicago. Lopez shot 11 for 14 from the field as the Bulls were 52 percent (46 for 89).

Deandre Ayton had 25 points and 12 rebounds for Phoenix.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	50	21	.704	—
x-Philadelphia	45	25	.643	4.5
Boston	43	28	.606	7
Brooklyn	36	36	.500	14.5
New York	14	57	.197	36

Central Division

x-Milwaukee	52	18	.743	—
Indiana	44	27	.620	8.5
Detroit	36	34	.514	16
Chicago	20	52	.278	33
Cleveland	18	53	.254	34.5

Southeast Division

Miami	34	36	.486	—
Orlando	33	38	.465	1.5
Charlotte	31	38	.449	2.5
Washington30	41	.423	4.5	
Atlanta	24	47	.338	10.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	47	22	.681	—
LA Clippers	41	30	.577	7
Sacramento	34	35	.493	13
LA Lakers	31	39	.443	16.5
Phoenix	17	55	.236	31.5

Southwest Division

Houston	44	26	.629	—
San Antonio	42	29	.592	2.5
New Orleans	31	42	.425	14.5
Memphis	28	42	.400	16
Dallas	28	42	.400	16

Northwest Division

x-Denver	47	22	.681	—
Portland	43	27	.614	4.5
Oklahoma City	42	29	.592	6
Utah	41	29	.586	6.5
Minnesota	32	38	.457	15.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Opinion: LeBron no longer a superhero; What's next for Lakers?

NEW YORK—It was an ugly fourth quarter.

The Los Angeles Lakers lost to the New York Knicks on Sunday, 124-123. LeBron James had maybe the worst quarter of his career to close out the game, going 4 of 15 from the field in the fourth. The Lakers had an 11-point lead with under four minutes to go in the game, then blew it down the stretch, allowing the Knicks to go on a 13-1 run.

And then there was the final play. James went up for the game-winning shot, like he has so many times before, but this time it didn't go in. The shot didn't even get off. James was stuffed by Mario Hezonja, and the Lakers lost, and Hezonja pointed at James and laughed.

It was something we'd never seen before. Not really. And it reflects LeBron transitioning to a new part of his career: That of the mere mortal.

What does that mean? It means the normal laws of basketball now apply to him. It means that if you stick him on a lottery-type team, they will finish below .500, whereas five years ago if you stuck him on a lottery-type team he'd drag that team to the NBA Finals.

The Lakers' disappointing performance this year, to me at least, doesn't really speak to James' failings but rather props up everything he did over the last ten plus years. To become human, you must have once been inhuman. And for the last decade plus, James has been inhuman.

We've given other players the MVP over that time span. We've heralded great seasons, but the simple fact of the matter is that no one has come close to James in terms of greatness in that span. His off years, including this one, would be the career year for just about anyone else in the league not named Stephen Curry.

It's sort of obscene looking at it. This year is almost certainly his worst NBA season since his rookie year, and he's averaging 27-8-8 with 1.3 steals a game. He's seventh in Player Efficiency Rating, fifth in scoring, sixth in assists, top 30 in rebounding. (All stats via Basketball Reference.) This is his "worst" season in years.

He's still one of the very, very best basketball players alive, at age 34. He just can't do what he did for so long, which was drag teams to the NBA Finals whether they were good enough to go there or not.

Some of that has to do with being in the Western Conference, where there are far fewer winnable games than the Eastern Conference that James inhabited for years. A lot has to do with this roster, which aside from a few nice young pieces, is a roster built of castoffs and also-rans.

And yes, some of it has to do with James getting older.

So what do the Lakers do now? The fact is they have to do what James has inherently understood he needed even when he was superhuman - they need to get talent around him. It's even more imperative now.

We remember the times James dragged Cavaliers teams to the NBA Finals, but the fact of the matter was he had Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love on those teams. Even if one or both was hurt for some stretch runs, they were available earlier in the season to help win games and give James a few nights off. A few years ago James was able to take a recharging vacation in the middle of the season, and Irving and Love carried the team in his absence. They made the playoffs, James got them to the Finals.

The Lakers have some good players, but Kyle Kuzma and Brandon Ingram can't carry a team to a bunch of wins alone.

James is becoming mortal. A mere human being. One of the very best basketball players alive, but something below a demigod. The Lakers need to go and get the talent to help him out. At one point he could be relied on for miracles, but not anymore.

Manta Rays dominate Geckos for ninth win

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Southern High School overpowered Saipan International School, 57-37, in the boys division game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Manta Rays set up the 20-point winning margin after pulling away in the second quarter.

With Saipan Southern ahead by only four early into the second period, 24-20, Clarenz Contreras shifted gears and made three straight baskets off fastbreak plays, while Bryan De Guzman and Rafael Ordona also scored in the Mantas' surge for their 34-22 halftime lead.

After the Saipan Southern trio combined for a 10-2 run in final half of the second quarter, the Mantas never looked back.

Before falling way behind, the Geckos got 10 of their 12 points from Mike Lee and A.J. Hudkins to stay in the game. However, Glen Matalog and Ervin Villarin wrapped up the first quarter with two fastbreak baskets to put Saipan Southern on top, 16-12.

Contreras led all scorers with his18 points, while Villarin and Jesstin Laniyo also had double figures with 11 and 10 markers, respectively. Hudkins topscored for the Geckos with his 16 points, while Lee logged in 10, and J.P. Sablan netted 7.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Saipan Southern High School, left, and Saipan International School players battle for the rebound during their game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Mantas now have a 9-2 record and are still at the No. 2 spot in the team standings, while SIS stumbled to a 3-4 card for fifth spot.

Over at the Agape Christian School's court in Gualo Rai, the Lady Torchbearers upset the leading Lady Knights, 28-23.

Agape caught fire in the second half after a lackluster showing in the first two quarters. The Lady Torchbearers had 19 points in the third and fourth periods, while MCS struggled to score in the second half, managing only 5 points in that meltdown.

Agape was down at halftime, 7-14, but overhauled the deficit, as Lani Lishoalo scored all her 6 points in the pivotal fourth quarter, and Elizabeth Xu chipped in with 4.

Ivy Yu churned in 9 points for the Lady Torchbearers, while Lishoalo and combined for 12. Louisa Han recorded 10 points for MCS and all came in the first half, while Katelyn Diaz contributed 4.

With the upset, Agape got its first win in four games and dealt the Lady Knights their first loss of the season.

Meanwhile, in the boys division game, MCS 1 beat Agape 1, 91-80.

With the win, the Knights hiked their record to 9-3, while Agape 1 staggered to a 6-4 mark.

Agape 1 returns to action today when it hosts Saipan Southern, while GCA will meet Kagman High School at the Eagles court in Navy Hill.

In other games, MCS 1 will play MCS 2 at the Koblerville Gymnasium, while SIS will host Agape 2 in As Lito.

SSHS 57—Contreras 18, Villarin 11, Laniyo 10, De Guzman 8, Ordona 4, Ichihara 2, Lucina 2, Matalog 2.

SIS 37—Hudkins 16, Lee 10, J.P. Sablan 7, Muna 2, Qian 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-

SOUTHERN

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The core of Southern United's U19 roster suited up for the club's U16 team, too and they cruised past Kanoa, 4-0, at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Saturday to grab the No. 1 spot in the team standings.

Deleon Guerrero had a pair in Southern United's third victory, while Marinel Joy Falalimpa and Castro added one goal apiece. Falalimpa gave Southern United its first goal in the fifth minute, while Deleon Guerrero made it a 2-0 lead for their squad two minutes later. The winning team's two other goals were also made in the first half with Castro finding the back of the net in the 15th minute and Deleon Guerrero bagging her second goal in the 28th.

GIRLS U16 DIVISION
Kanoa 7, Matansa 2

Kanoa regained its winning form after outclassing Matansa in the last game in the division.

Sharmaine Francisco fired five goals for Kanoa, which got the victory a week after settling for a draw against TanHoldings. Francisco knocked in all her goals in the first half to secure the early win for Kanoa. Abigail Decena and Isabel Rita Manabat scored the two other goals for Kanoa, while Barbara Peteru delivered a pair for the winless Matansa.

TanHoldings 2, MP United 2

TanHoldings got into another standoff, thanks to Kaithlyn Chavez's game-tying goal in the 66th minute.

TanHoldings managed to force a draw after nailing two goals in the first half with the other one coming from Mary Joy Aniana in the 55th minute.

Earlier in the 44th minute, MP United built a 2-0 lead after Claire Park scored. Katrina Costales posted the other goal for MP United in the 15th minute.

GIRLS U19 DIVISION
MP United 8, TanHoldings 2

MP United and TanHoldngs also collided in the girls U19 game last Friday with the former prevailing.

Guine Borja and Britany Wally starred in MP United's lopsided win after drilling three goals apiece and leading the squad's domination of TanHoldings in the second half.

TanHoldings was still in the game after the first half, behind by only two, 0-2, before Borja and Wally teamed up in the breakaway after the brief lull. Anela Duenas and Lilian Podziewski chipped in one goal each, while Jenny Ann Capayas and Stephanie Flores recorded the two goals for TanHoldings.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings (As of March 16, 2019)

GIRLS U16 DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Southern United	3	3	0	0	9	0	9	9
Kanoa	3	2	1	0	16	6	10	7
TanHoldings	3	1	2	0	9	6	3	5
MP United	3	1	1	1	8	8	0	4
Matansa	3	0	0	3	2	13	-11	0
Paire	3	0	0	3	4	15	-11	0

GIRLS U19 DIVISION

Southern United	2	2	0	0	11	2	9	6
Kanoa	2	2	0	0	13	6	7	6
MP United	3	2	0	1	32	8	24	6
Matansa	2	0	0	2	3	30	-27	0
TanHoldings	3	0	0	3	5	18	-13	0

Tournament of Champions scheduled for Aug. 10 and 11

The 2019 Tournament of Champions is going back to its original schedule with the 24th edition of the premier golf tournament on Saipan taking place on Aug. 10 and 11 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

As usual, TOC will utilize both courses (east and west) at the Kagman facility and golfers can play in the A, B, C, Championship, Senior, and Super Senior flights and Ladies low net and gross.

Showtime is at 6am, while a shotgun start is set for 7am.

For more information, contact tournament director Ben Babauta at 236-3563, 483-2563, and 234-3969 or send email to ben.babauta@dfs.com. ***(PR)***

CAROL

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second round where she will face the winner of the match between Austria's Emily Meyer and Morocco's Sarah Rhallab.

The Commonwealth bet also prevailed in her doubles match, as she and Australia's Tina Nadine Smith outclassed Lituania's Iveta Daujotaite and Slovenia's Maja Makoric, 6-3, 6-3. Next up for the No. 2 seed pair is a quarterfinal match against Meyer and Liechtenstein's Sylvie Zund.

After the tournament in Casablanca, the CNMI player will go to Mohammedia to show her wares in the Raquette D'Or—another Grade 3 tournament. Then in Italy, Lee will compete in Florence and Salsomaggiore Terme, while in Belgium, she will play in Marcinelle.

Lee is ranked No. 170 (combined) in the world and has 265 rankings points in singles and 184 in doubles.

RUGBY

From Page 28

it out quickly to the faster guys on the backline," said Iakopo, who saw action in last Saturday's twin matches along with team captain Paul Manglona, co-captains Soane Pome'e, Mike Salas, and Danny Kaipat, and Ben Jones Jr.

"We are all working very hard day in, day out at 430am and 5pm everyday. We are still learning, developing, and crafting our skills, especially our players who are first-timers," Iakopo said.

The squad will continue to train under Pome'e and Schwalger with the latter expected to give his recommendation on the players that could make an impact on the team before he leaves later this month.

Then in April, Iakopo and company will be under the watch of another veteran in the sport—Sam Fesulua'i Robinson. The Hawaii-based Robinson was hired as coach of the national team and supervised the squad's training sessions for nearly a month last year (late September to mid October).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Guam Rugby Club players attempt to stop a CNMI player from advancing the ball during their game last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

"Coach Sam is coming in April from Hawaii to prep us for Samoa and then finalize the selection," said Iakopo.

Meanwhile, NMRU would like to thank the following individuals and companies that supported the exhibition matches last weekend: Ed Arriola, Deron Flores, Island Image and Motion CNMI, MARPAC, Latte Built, Rufina Tropicals, Let's Go Tour Sea Touch, Saipan Apparel, and Hertz Rent A Car.

2019 Saipan Marathon Finishers

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's MMA warrior Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial celebrates his finish in the 10K event of the 2019 Saipan Marathon held early this month.

Body By Jerry's Jerry Diaz, right, and another BBJ runner approach the finish line of the 10K race at the American Memorial Park.

Mia Carreon cuts the tape en route to a first place finish in the girls 16 to 19 age group's 10K event.

TanHoldings president and Marianas Visitors Authority board member Jerry Tan, left, and MVA managing director Chris Concepcion pose with their finishers medals and bibs after completing the 10K race.

Saipan's Lydia Tan, left, and a visiting runner are on their way to completing the half marathon course.

Leo Wania beats a female 10K runner to the finish line.

A group of Saipan runners poses for a photo after finishing their respective races.

Runners pose with "Red Power Ranger."

Giants defend Beckham trade, Eli salary

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Sports

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Rugby squad passes test

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Guam Rugby Club player, left, tries to hold down a CNMI player during their game last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI National Rugby Team made the grade in its test match against the Guam Rugby Club last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

"The team played an excellent game. Our players played a higher-level team, consists of national players from Guam," Northern Marianas Rugby Union president and player/coach Stanley Iakopo said.

The opposing squads split the pair of matches last weekend with Guam taking Game 1, 12-5, and the CNMI settling the score in Game 2, 12-7.

Iakopo called the exhibition a test match, as they have intensified their training sessions early this year in preparation for the 2019 Pacific Mini Games and it came more than a week after the squad had practice times under World Cup veteran Mahonri Schwalger of Samoa.

"The team did well during the game, doing ball offloads and passing, attacking the offense, and having communication. We were able to shut down Guam offensively, which is indicative of the low scoring game...and we came back and won the second game," Iakopo said.

While he liked what he saw in last Saturday's match, the NMRU head believed they could not rest on their laurels with the Mini Games in Apia, Samoa just a few months away. The quadrennial meet will run from July 7 to 20. Rugby 7s, where the CNMI is playing, is scheduled for July 12 and 13 at the Apia Park Stadium.

"We still have a lot of work to do. We need to do more rucks and clear the ball and get

See RUGBY on Page 26

Carol to play in Europe

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee will continue her quest for more world ranking points, as she heads to Europe next month to play in a series of tournaments under the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors.

Lee is currently in Morocco in Africa where she has two competitions left before jumping to another continent to see action in high-ranking events in Italy and Belgium.

"I am staying at the ITF center in Morocco (International Tennis Federation/ Confederation of African Tennis Regional Training Centre). I will be training and playing and after two weeks, I will go to Europe to play in Italy and Belgium. I will stay there for more than a month and go back to Morocco and then to the other ITF center (in Fiji) in June," the 17-year-old said.

She is playing in the ITF/ CAT North African Circuit in Casablanca and won her opening match in the singles event of the Grade 3 contest yesterday. Lee swept France's Flavie Brugnone, 6-1, 7-5, to move into the

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee poses for a photo after a training session at a clay court in Morocco last weekend.

See CAROL on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Southern United Football Club player, left, is tightly guarded by a Paire Football Club defender during their girls U16 game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Southern United FC ahead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Southern United Football Club are leading in two divisions in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

Southern United dominated Matansa, 9-2, in the first girls U19 futsal game last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex to notch its second win in as many matches and tie idle Kanoa FC on top of the team standings in the five-squad field.

Nathanette Blas and Jerlyn Castillo joined forces in handing Southern United an easy victory as they scored three goals apiece. Blas had her first goal in the eighth minute and completed the hat trick when she hit her target anew in the 42nd and 46th. Castillo did the same, getting her first goal in the opening half (25th minute) and the final two in the last (33rd and 45th). Katherine Magat, Keisha Deleon Guerrero, and Mariana Castro also lit up the board for Southern United, scoring in the 21st, 27th, and 34th minute, respectively.

Matansa, which is winless and remained at the bottom of the team standings, drew a goal from Pia Ngewakl in the 24th minute and was awarded an own goal, also in the first half.

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